■ SPECTRUM

Frankfurt's Hotel Mozart is a hotel with a difference

Hotel Mozart should make regular hoteliers sit up and take notice. Per Uwe Stiksrud is the proprietor of this elegant hostelry in the Westend district of Frankfurt. 26 year-old Herr Stiksrud has found a new clientle that might help to fill up those empty rooms in hostels and get the cash registers ringing again. The mentally ill, children from homes and convicts could be put up in hotels, private hotels and minihotels. Stiksrud leads the way by his own example.

The red-haired Norwegian has been living in the Federal Republic for nine years. He studied business management in Frankfurt and Berlin. During the long holidays he did social work in a home for young people and saw the other side of our prosperous society.

This is one reason why he combines business sense and social involvement to such a great extent. Per Uwe Stiksrud has already shocked fellow hoteliers with some staggering and unusual moves.

He became internationally famous and got some good publicity when he came up with the idea of allowing wives to stay at his hotel for free if they accompanied their husbands on business trips.

He said: "This is a boon for the wives of managerial staff who are often left alone and it doesn't cost me much more than putting up a manager on his own."

His "Golden Bridge" scheme has been under way for eighteen months now. Under this scheme young people from the Fritz Bauer Haus detention centre near Darmstadt are able to stay in his luxury hotel at their own expense for about ten to fifteen Marks a night instead of the usual sixty Marks. They can stay there until they have found themselves work and somewhere to live.

Herr Stiksrud said: "They are treated like any other guest. This boosts their self-confidence, helps them forget imprisonment and gives them a good start along the road to a new life."

Already about sixty young offenders have benefitted from the Golden Bridge scheme without there being any difficulties. Per Uwe Stiksrud said: "The reason they behave themselves is because of the pleasant surroundings. It is discomfort that arouses aggressiveness."

And in his choice of staff for the hotel Herr Stiksrud shows more compassion than prejudice. Of the six women who work in the seventeen apartments at the hotel two have a history of mental illness. They are treated normally – not with any mistrust, but not with kid gloves. The two women are so happy in this job that there is little danger of their becoming mentally disturbed again.

Many VIPs from industry, politics and show business as well as company bosses from the Rhine and Ruhr like to stay at this hotel, which is being expanded in size by a new building at the moment. According to the proprietor of the Mozart Hotel they all regard his welfare work with interest and goodwill.

With bookings at about 96 per cent, something most hotel managers hardly dare dream of, he can afford to take risks, such as his latest idea. Hotels in big cities generally suffer from lack of bookings at weekends. So Stiksrud plans to open his hotel to convicts as a place where they can meet their wives, if the authorities approve.

This is a demand that has been made quite a lot recently in the light of favourable experiences with open prisons. He has already begun negotiations with a prison. His only condition is that these problem guests must be recommended by a psychologist and psychiatrist for the privilege.

In addition Herr Stiksrud plans to offer accommodation to groups of patients from psychiatric hospitals. He is prepared to devote about half the hotel to them for two weeks in every month so that they can fight their way back to good health and peace of mind in the pleasant unrestricted atmosphere of a hotel, by means of group therapy and the like.



Per Stiksrud in the lounge of his hotel (Photo: Klaus

Doctors at the Frankfurt University Neurological Clinic and the psychiatrist Professor Alexander Mitscherlich, whose Sigmund Freud Institute is situated nearby, have given every encouragement to the young hotel manager.

Herr Stiksrud is hoping that the example he is setting will catch on. He said: "Only if a number of hotels in every city are prepared to give up some of their accommodation in this way will it be possible for hospitals to arrange excursions of this kind for their patients."

To encourage his colleagues he suggests that in this way they are not only providing a valuable welfare facility, but are also helping solve the crisis that faces small hotels. He forecasts that if a large part of the 50,000 small hotels and boarding houses in the Federal Republic do not enter such a scheme they will go the same way as the "little shop on the corner" when the supermarkets came along. These hotels have about a million beds to offer in all.

They are caught in a vice-like grip with rising costs on the one hand and the competition of prestige hotel organisations such as Hilton, Holiday Inn, continental and the like.

With these hotels snapping up foreign tourists the smaller hotels only survive if they come up something like his scheme, he says.

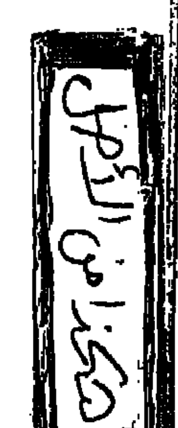
Not only are there too many with too many beds for too market, but on the other hand there acute lack of accommodation for purposes, for small conferences youth work, for family assistance extensions to mental hospitals for patients and for old people.

The State has put millions as building schemes for this purpose would be more sensible, claims Stiksrud use the accommodation already A day's stay in a small hotel less than a day in hospital. Thus he for support from health insurance sations.

In Kleve there is already a plan to use a hotel that has been sta empty for mentally handicapped dren. In the centre of Düsseldorf a of flats has been opened as a boarding place for convalescents from a hospital.

Arnd Schwe

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 7 March



Students set up do-as-you-please jazz-club in an old workshop

It's always the same problem: where can you go for a good night out without being bored stiff, without being clipped, where you can be with friends, talk together when you feel like it, keep quiet when you feel like it and listen to music.

The list of "what's on in town" is rarely much help in this respect and the same applies to the official guide to events that are supposed to be put on especially for the young.

Matthis, 21, Peter, 26, and Thomas, 22, from Hamburg asked themselves the question: where can we go? enough times. The three met up by chance at a jazz session.

Matthis, small, dark and with a small beard, is a victim of the insufficient university places in West Germany. He wanted to study marine biology, but there is not a dog's chance in hell of getting into a biology faculty at present. What can you do when you are stuck in a city waiting for a university place to become vacant?

He found a job of sorts, sticking up clippings for a publishing company's archives. He said: "I apparently look intelligent and so I am to a certain extent given a chance to sort out some clippings myself."

With time on his hands to go for interminable strolls through the "Free Hanseatic City" Matthis discovered an old bolt and screw factory which had been derelict for twenty years.

It was in Palmaille, a street in Altona which is fairly close to the famous Reeperbahn, but at the same time sufficiently far away from it. It follows the Elbe and has a view down on to the river and the harbour where you can watch the in-coming and outgoing freighters, container ships and tugs.

Matthis decided he liked the area so much that he got the idea of renting the old factory premises. At first he was just planning to make it into a large workshop in which he and his friends could paint a bit and make music without being bugged by any officious caretaker.

The owner of the old property, which seemed to be standing there just waiting for the developers to come along, was somewhat surprised at first at the interest the young man was suddenly taking in it, but finally agreed that Matthis and his pals could rent the old workshop for 140 Marks a month.

Peter, tall with long black hair, a black jacket and black trousers, studied engineering at first, but then moved on to economics. Thomas, the third member of the group, plans to become an educationalist, but he too is waiting for a place at university.

Peter and Thomas were also enthusiastic about the idea of taking over the old workshop.

So they did. At first there was a-clearing up, a-swabbing down and a-hammering. The whole project suddenly became more expensive than they had originally bargained for. They could not get away with it for less than 400 Marks. An old stove was acquired, but the thing needed fuel of course. They could not get by without electricity.

And since their own funds were pretty low they had to call for assistance from indirect financiers. The original idea was extended until it became *Galerie M.P.T.* (M for Matthis, P for Peter, T for Thomas).

But since the whole project was designed to be non-profitmaking it was necessary to form a society and register it. But it is not necessary for those who are interested to become members of this society. Those who want to drop by can.

But only on Fridays and Saturdays from eight o'clock. When Nick's Jazz Band has got through the present phase of study and exams, which will take about six to seven weeks, then the club will be open on Wednesdays, too.

The rules are strict: No staff, no entrance fee, drinks to be sold a price plus a nominal extra for lighting coal. And the bands play for bre dripping and a free Cola, not money.

M.P.T. has been going for over a already. The club is furnished discarded furniture left in the street council vans to collect, which is available to anyone that wants it.

Among the so-called *Sperrmüll* covered by the organisers was a ba piano. Matthis smartened this up tuned it. This source of furnishing also provided an old but servi fridge, a sideboard and old sewing ma ines, which make most original tables.

Decorations? No problems. There no lack of young painters who prepared to hang their life's work club.

It has often happened that a few pe who have rolled up there with in ments, or have found instruments around, have formed themselves into impromptu group on the spot. improvisation may fill a half-hour maybe a whole evening.

The great thing is that no one expe perfection. It's free so you can't fa get your money's worth. Occasionally author will roll up and give readings one of his works.

Recently Uwe Friesel, who has wri novels and radio plays, came along for ride. He enjoyed himself.

Bernhard Temp

(Der Tagesspiegel, 20 February 19

The German Tribune

"A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 6 April 1972
Eleventh Year - No. 521 - By air

C 20725 C

Much talk in Geneva but arms continue to spiral

For several weeks the Geneva disarmament conference has been back in session, with 25 countries in attendance and, as in the past, the twenty-sixth country, France, absent.

After a break of some months the talks, which have been held for years on the sidelines of world affairs, as it were, reconvened for the 545th time on 29 February.

The resumption of talks would not have merited special attention had not the session been opened by Kurt Waldheim of Austria, the new United Nations Secretary-General, and had not the issue of Chinese participation been raised for the first time.

So far Peking has failed to respond to repeated calls to take its place at the Geneva conference table. Paris too shows scant interest in rejoining the talks from which it withdrew some years ago.

As a result the disarmament talks will celebrate their tenth anniversary without much ado and without the participation of the two most recently-established nuclear powers but with a complement of 26 delegations as opposed to the original eighteen.

Despite a number of successes, including the 1963 test ban treaty, the 1968 non-proliferation treaty, the 1970 ban on underwater tests and last year's ban on the use of bacteriological weapons for military purposes, the outcome of ten years of talks has been unspectacular in view of the continuing arms spiral.

Nearly all the agreements concluded represent not a reduction in existing arms potential – disarmament proper, that is –

IN THIS ISSUE

but improved control facilities for existing arms and possible limitations on future armaments.

What is more, the agreements have not resulted directly from the Geneva talks; they have invariably been the result of prior bilateral agreements between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Both powers have consciously taken matters easy, making no inroads whatsoever on their terrifying and immense arms potential and restricting themselves to measures they would sooner or later have taken in any case.

Much though they may be welcomed such agreements as have so far been reached represent no more than first, modest steps on the long, hard road to genuine disarmament.

In view of the predominance of America and Russia the contribution made by the Geneva conference was bound to be limited.

It is hardly surprising in the circumstances that public interest in the Geneva talks, indeed in disarmament in general, has declined along with the disappointment of hopes of a perceptible reduction in arms burdens.

The world has evidently learnt not only to live with the Bomb but also to live with armaments expenditure that the UN Secretary-General claimed to have increased from 120,000 to 200,000 million dollars a year since the inauguration of the Geneva conference in 1962.

This lack of interest in disarmament may stem from the realisation that root-and-branch calls for total disarmament and the destruction of all nuclear stockpiles, which gained wide currency and support in the fifties, are not necessarily a guarantee of a better, let alone a safer world.

Not only the great powers but also smaller countries, particularly the emerging nations, have so far shown little inclination towards or interest in forgoing their arms stockpiles either partially or in entirety.

A number of countries may well point out that a particularly high degree of political stability has been attained, especially in Europe, the part of the world that can lay claim to the most powerful concentration of troops and arms in the world.

Forecasts as to the continued work of the Geneva disarmament conference in its present form are thus cautious and marked by a degree of scepticism. Participation by China, which many observers feel may achieve some results, will probably make little or no difference to the modest results either.

Like France, China is still busily building up its nuclear potential. As long as this is the case neither is likely to be all that enthusiastic about either the existing test ban treaty or current proposals to extend the ban to underground tests. For the time being both countries have no alternative but to press ahead with their nuclear test programmes.

A further thorn in the flesh of the two nuclear newcomers is the fact that the Geneva talks are dominated by America and the Soviet Union. They feel this to be confirmation of a privileged position in relation to all other countries and there is some truth in allegations of this kind.

They have certainly gained greater support at Geneva. The Mexican delegate, for instance, has suggested that the talks be chaired by each country in rotation. The proposal is designed not only to weaken the privileged position of America and Russia but also to facilitate French and Chinese participation.

The prospect of Chinese participation at some future stage would undoubtedly seem to have given the rusting negotiation machinery a fresh lease of life. This is to be welcomed in itself and a review of the negotiation machinery is decidedly overdue.

It must be realised that a committee enlarged to include 26 countries with completely different interests can hardly be expected to function swiftly and efficiently.

In common with all UN bodies the disarmament conference has suffered from a proliferation of bureaucracy at the expense of efficiency. A change for the better can only be brought about by means of judicious and thorough pruning.

This might prove possible if the present dubious practice of universality were to be abandoned in favour of a division into sectors and regions. What meaningful contributions have, say, Ethiopia, Burma and Nigeria to make to a ban on nuclear tests underground?

They certainly have more to say about the arms trade and conventional armaments, so a subdivision into smaller and more flexible commissions would certainly seem in order.

The same applies to specifically regional problems. What is important for Europe need not necessarily be so for Asia or Latin America.

After ten years of what has meanwhile become relative deadlock the Geneva disarmament conference would do well to take the opportunity of its tenth anniversary to subject its workings and organisational structure to critical scrutiny.

This would not only be in the interest of its continued and continually important endeavours to bring about some degree of disarmament. It would probably reactivate the public interest that the talks have so sadly sacrificed.

Curt Gasteyger

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 24 March 1972)

Olympics winner honoured

President Gustav Heinemann presented the highest West German award for sport, the Silver Laurel, to Monika Pflug. She won the 1,000-meter speed-skating event at the Sapporo Olympics.

(Photo: dpa)

Leonid Brezhnev warns against consequences of non-ratification

Many an opponent of the treaties with Moscow and Warsaw concluded by the Bonn government and due for ratification – or rejection – by the Bundestag in May will sound a grim note about Leonid Brezhnev's latest foreign policy pronouncements.

Does not the gloomy picture painted of the repercussions of non-ratification represent pressure brought to bear on the Bonn Bundestag?

The Soviet leader certainly forecasts that a policy rejecting the key point of the treaties, the inviolability of frontiers, is bound to lead to fresh confrontation and possibly give rise to a renewed risk of war.

Mr Brezhnev does not claim that opponents of the treaties are in favour of any such his acknowledgment of the German people's goodwill.

His words are nonetheless intended as a grave warning against objective tendencies that would come to the fore in the event of the treaties not being ratified.

Mr Brezhnev feels duty bound to nip in the bud illusions that may be harboured in this country and have been encouraged by a number of Opposition leaders in Bonn.

Claims that a new government would do better in fresh negotiations were it to be given the opportunity are now revealed for what they are. Moscow is not prepared to renegotiate the points about which the Opposition is most critical.

A Christian Democratic government headed by Rainer Barzel would have no option but to accept the present terms under less favourable circumstances, being compelled to accept what Willy

Continued on page 3



■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Britain promises to be a tower of strength for a cliff-hanging Continent

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The much-vaunted wind of change is sweeping Western Europe, creating uncertainty and here and there a change of atmosphere.

A number of factors that until recently appeared to be stable have suddenly been rendered doubtful and others that were considered to be under the weather and crisis-prone seem to be fairly healthy again.

Only a matter of weeks ago many people on the Continent felt uneasy about the forthcoming entry of strike- and crisis-torn Britain into the Common Market. Now the boot is on the other foot.

"What kind of a Europe are we joining?" the *Guardian*, London, recently wondered. "In view of the current condition of democracy," the *Guardian* continued, "Europe may well have undergone considerable changes by the time Britain is in the EEC."

This anxiety is not entirely unfounded. British observers can indeed point to the surprising fact that the domestic position of Premier Heath is at present probably stronger than that of his three major partners in the Common Market, the heads of government of France, Italy and this country.

Mr Heath still has problems, of course. There is not only the bloodshed in Northern Ireland. Passage of the European Community Bill is also still beset with difficulties.

The Opposition Labour Party, led by Harold Wilson, is still doing its utmost to block the passage of European legislation through Parliament.

But the sublime political acrobatics of Labour leader Wilson, who has now all too often advocated the exact opposite of what he stood for whilst in power, is creating a less and less favourable impression.

The climax of the crisis would seem to have been reached in February when the government survived a crucial parliamentary division with a majority of only eight.

Recently the Conservative Premier was again able peacefully and quietly to consult with the trade union leaders, who were proving so difficult not long ago, and discuss matters of economic growth, the wages and prices freeze and means of coping with unemployment.

His opposite numbers on the Continent are not having so easy a time of it at the moment. President Pompidou of France may have tried to engineer himself more leeway by calling a referendum on the admission to the Common Market of Britain, Ireland, Denmark and Norway.

But this surprise move, no doubt partly intended as a starter for the Chequers talks with Mr Heath and equally certainly bound to lead to a fair-sized majority for the French government, cannot hide the fact that Premier Chaban Delmas is in serious trouble now that details of his tax avoidance manoeuvres have been disclosed.

There is even a possibility of a general election in France ahead of time (the next elections are not due until 1973). *Le Monde*, Paris, has forecast a year of difficulties ahead for France.

In Italy the situation is a good deal worse and less transparent. The caretaker government no longer enjoys the support of a parliamentary majority and the election campaign is in full swing.

At times outsiders may well consider the Italian election campaign to resemble the theatre of the absurd. On 7 May, a year ahead of time, no less than 82 parties are fielding candidates. They range from anarchists, hippies, nudists and pensioners to a National Reactionary Movement.

This record number of splinter groups is attributable not only to marked Italian individualism. It is also symptomatic of a serious political sickness due in part to continual ideological bickering and personal rivalry within the Centre-Left coalition.

Dissatisfaction on many people's part may lead to more people than expected voting for splinter groups and extremists – the Communist on the Left and on the Right the Neo-Fascists, who promise their crisis-weary fellow-countrymen law and order, peace and quiet.

This longing is so marked that many worried Italians appear to feel that the early dissolution of the National Assembly is a bad sign. The last early elections in Italy were held in 1924, the year Mussolini seized power.

Whether election fever will seize this country in the months to come remains to be seen. Much will depend on the outcome of the local elections in Baden-Württemberg and the second reading of the Bill to ratify the treaties with Moscow and Warsaw at the beginning of May.

Then and then only will it be clear whether, as the government still hopes, the Bill will be passed by a wafer-thin majority or its defeat will result in the calling of fresh elections at national level.

At least until such time as the fate of the ratification Bill is clear the war of nerves and speculation as to whether odd MPs will change their allegiance and the coalition's majority decline still further will continue.

Until then danger signs in Bonn will continue to surprise and upset foreign observers and demolish the view current in many countries that the Federal Republic is blessed with an enviable degree of political stability and reliability.

Foreign countries, particularly in the West, are doing their best not to interfer in the domestic disputes of this country but most commentaries reflect considerable disappointment and regret at the latest developments in Bonn.

There are fears that defeat of the ratification Bill in Bonn could lead to a chain reaction and jeopardise the whole gamut of detente policy in Europe up to and including the Salt talks and President Nixon's negotiations in Moscow.

Yet even foreign critics who fa[vour] ratification of the treaties because th[ey] feel that the barbed wire and minefi[elds] that separate the two parts of Germ[any] can only be offset by means of grad[ual] improvements are fair judges of [the] reasons for the current critical situat[ion].

They do not lay the blame solely at [the] door of the Christian Democratic [op]position, though of course they [do] consider a return to confrontation of[...] to be a bad idea. Many observers b[ear] witness to a degree of appreciation of [the] arguments fielded by the Chri[stian] Democrats. They are not sparing [in] their criticism of Moscow either.

Even a newspaper that is so strongl[y in] favour of detente as the *Guardian* fe[els] that if only the Soviet leaders had be[en a] little more generous towards this cou[ntry] the treaties could have been signed, s[ealed] and delivered by now. "But they'v[e] done little to make matters easier [for] Herr Brandt," the paper added.

Chancellor Brandt also comes in [for] criticism for having negotiated so i[m]portant an agreement without consu[lting] a strong Opposition and for having [made] the treaties dependent on a co[...] party-political coalition.

"In this way," *Neue Zürcher Zeit[ung]* comments, "the Federal government [has] manoeuvred itself into a position [in] which its policy is dependent on a [...]cidence and the genuine or feigned p[angs] of conscience of continual doubters [...] unfortunate state of affairs in a [...] respect."

A solution is still not in sight. [The] obliging comments by Moscow [...] Chancellor Brandt was able to prese[nt to] the Bundestag have proved insufficie[nt to] persuade the Opposition to abando[n its] opposition to the treaties.

There is not even much hope tha[t the] Easter recess and Willy Brandt's proje[cted] talks with Opposition leader Rai[ner] Barzel and Shadow Foreign Minis[ter] Gerhard Schröder will *bring* abo[ut a] change in the situation.

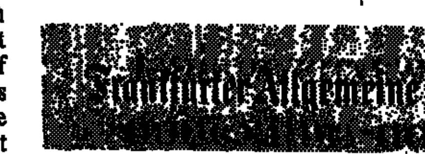
All that the government can hope f[or at] present is that the latest developm[ents] will at least serve to appease the [mis]givings of doubters in their own rank[s].

Until the vote is taken in a few we[eks'] time all that the government can do [is] remain calm and collected in the fa[ce of] the changed atmosphere and the [pro]paganda crossfire of the Opposition.

Alfred Hildebra[ndt]

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 March [1972])

Kremlin nudges Bonn towards treaty ratification



Stuttgarter Allgemeine

The Soviet Union, diplomatic sources in Bonn report, intends in the near future to demonstrate its good will in respect of a return to normal in relations with this country and aims above all at fruitful cooperation in the economic sector.

The reorientation of relations between Moscow and Bonn will not be without repercussions for the future treatment of inter-German problems and will, it is maintained, bring a beneficial influence to bear on neighbourly relations at governmental level between this country and the GDR.

In all probability Soviet Foreign Trade Minister Patolichev will shortly visit this country in order to negotiate a renewal of the current, outgoing agreement on the delivery of pipeline.

Another point that is considered to be of interest is the Soviet desire for scientific and industrial cooperation from this country in the development of Siberia.

Moscow, it is claimed, would also like to make its contribution towards the repatriation programme for divided families and allow Soviet citizens of German nationality to rejoin relatives in this country.

Furthermore, the limited number of telephone links between East and West Berlin and the GDR and this country are to be increased. There is talk of several hundred additional lines.

There is also talk of an increase in the number of frontier posts between the GDR and this country and consideration of a certain amount of tourist traffic between the two.

Prior to the conclusion of the treaties with Moscow and Warsaw Soviet diplomats in Bonn made no bones about the fact that the instructions to GDR border guards to shoot would-be refugees are to be withdrawn, or at least shelved.

The climax by way of demonstrating the improvement in relations between Bonn and Moscow is to be a goodwill visit by a Soviet delegation including both General Secretary Brezhnev and Premier Kosygin.

In contrast, reports will have it, there is a 24-point contingency programme for the event that the treaties are not ratified. To begin with there will be a several-day session of the Supreme Soviet in which the Soviet leaders will examine the repercussions on inter-German relations, relations between the Federal Republic and the countries of Eastern Europe and the overall political situation in Europe and the world at large.

The first direct diplomatic move would be a recall of the Soviet ambassador from Bonn and a considerable reduction in status of the Soviet mission in the Federal capital.

The highest-ranking official would then be a chargé d'affaires of low rank and trade relations would be frozen at a minimum level.

There would then again be difficulties with travel to and from West Berlin and the Soviet Union would refuse to ratify the Four-Power agreement on Berlin.

The telephone and teleprinter connections that have been established in the meantime would be reduced to a handful and cultural and sporting contacts w[ould] be stopped altogether.

The Soviet Union would then [...] endeavour, with the aid of [...] Western countries and a large numb[er of] neutrals, to secure admission to [the] United Nations for the GDR.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Ze[itung] für Deutschland, 21 March 1[972])

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Managing Editor: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Geoffrey Penny. Distribution Manager: Georgine von Platen.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schöne Aussicht, Hamburg 76. Tel.: 2 28 51. Telex: 02 14733. Bonn bureau: Konrad Kadlubowski, 56 Adenaueralle, 53 Bonn. Tel.: 22 61 53. Telex. 08 86398.

Advertising rates list No 9 — Annual subscription DM 25.

Printed by Krögers Buch- und Verlagsdruckerei, Hamburg-Blankenese. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24 Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprint are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes a Quarterly Review and a Supplement, articles selected from German periodicals.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper to the left of your address.

■ INTER GERMAN AFFAIRS

West Berliners go to great pains to make a trip down the road

Monday 13 March 1972. A day like any other. But for 2,200,000 Berliners it was a day that changed the pattern of their lives at a stroke. They stood in queues that seemed never-ending, patient, standing there for hours on end, clutching a wad of pink forms, crushed in waiting rooms that were too small, standing in front of desks where they were asked question upon question, thousands of questions, tens of thousands . . .

These were the five "bureaux for visits and travel" that were opened on 13 March promptly at nine o'clock in the Wedding, Charlottenburg, Spandau, Wilmersdorf and Neukölln districts of West Berlin. They will help effect a slight breach in the hideous Wall and at Easter and Whitsun at least will bring a touch of humanity with the "political springtime" between East and West. A gesture of good will was how the East Berlin regime described it.

The people in the west of the divided city rushed to take advantage of the new freedom. Freedom to see relatives, freedom to meet old friends again. Since 13 March Berliners have been dusting off their suitcases. They were given until 29 March to make their applications for a visa to go "over there".

People remembered the last time the Wall was opened when tens of thousands of West Berliners congregated in gymnasiums and school buildings to apply for entry permits. Now the scheme is being carried out with greater elegance and dignity. There is a smell of fresh paint in the offices set up by the Berlin Senate and approved by the GDR authorities.

GDR officials are on the scene to check applications, this time not looking like postmen, but clad in brown suits with gold buttons, cream coloured shirts and brown ties. The GDR officials sitting at the brand-new desks seemed friendly and helpful – doing everything in the best bureaucratic traditions.

They arrived at their offices between 7.45 and 8.05 in ten minibuses, crossing the border at Sandkrugbrücke, Heinrich-Heine-Strasse and Chausseestrasse.

As officials were donning their smart brown suits the first hopefuls were queuing outside the offices. One old man at Zoo Station where one of the offices was opened said: "I've been here since 6.30." Soon there were 999 behind him. Seating accommodation was soon snapped up. But Berliners are experienced in the art of waiting at the Wall, so to speak.

One woman with a small daughter said: "I'd stand for hours to go to Köpenick and see my mother again for the first time in six years." She had taken the day off work to join the queue.

Two policemen armed with walkie-talkies kept the crowds under control as Senate officials distributed the pink forms. The people who stood around clamouring for their ticket to the eastern part of the city were mostly not so young. They had to go two floors up to the office that brought such hope to them. You can hardly miss this office – just follow the crowds of people carrying those pink slips. Just look for the people with their personal documents at the ready being assisted in the business of form filling by Senate officials.

So far the five offices have 350,000 of the pink forms. But applicants are not finished when they have filled them in. They have to sit in waiting rooms and offices and then join other long queues before they even come face to face with the GDR officials.

The journey into the GDR begins not only with the utmost patience, but also with forms in duplicate. First of all a piece of paper about the same size and shape as a postcard must be filled in – on both sides. Then it is signed and handed in.

Information required includes personal details, profession, details of children under the age of sixteen who are going along with the applicant, the last address in East Germany of those applicants who once lived there, the number of the personal identity card carried by the applicant, and for those going there by car details of the vehicle in question.

As people wait the topics they discuss do not vary greatly. Most complain about the high price of package deal trips to the GDR. They consider it a terrible fiddle that a one day trip to Potsdam – just down the road – costs 61 Marks.

According to West Berlin travel agencies little interest has been shown in the three-day trips offered to Dresden and to the East German Baltic coast.

Talk also centres round the high charges for using transit roads to Berlin. Since the beginning of the year the cost of using these roads has been covered by a lump paid by Bonn, but for West Germans travelling into East Germany the road tax has to be met by the individual. A journey of up to 200 kilometres costs five Marks, up to 300 kilometres is fifteen Marks, up to 400 kilometres is twenty Marks and up to 500 kilometres is fifty Marks.

The prices are the same for the journey back, so for example a trip to Dresden via Leipzig is bumped up by fifty Marks.

Although the Berlin Senate's publication on the rules and regulations of crossing the demarcation line quickly became a bestseller with 1,200,000 copies changing hands there was still question after question being asked. Is Good Friday a bank holiday in the GDR as well? Answer: No. How long must I wait until I get the entry visa? Answer: Come back in a couple of days.

Life in Berlin has changed since 13 March. The radio gives running reports about the latest situation in the bureaux. Berlin radio has set up an advisory service and its telephones are getting red hot! As for the postal services – they do not know what to do with the flood of extra mail.

For the 36 girls on the switchboards in West Berlin the new ruling about visits at Easter and Whitsun has brought work galore. A spokesman for the Berlin postal services said: "If this increased use of telephones continues at the same rate so that even the Berlin dialling code is blocked we shall have to adopt emergency measures."

Meantime the final preparations for the tide of tourists from West to East over Eastern and Whitsun are well under way.

For years now the tram lines that used to link East and West of the divided city have come to an abrupt halt at the concrete and barbed wire construction and in all that time there have been no discussions between the transport authorities in the two sectors. But now talks have been resumed and West Berliners will go to the border crossing points in special buses and there transfer to East Berlin buses.

Difficult technical problems arise in this respect. For instance when a bus goes to the Dreilinden checkpoint and passengers get out they will be faced with a walk of something like a kilometre to the GDB checkpoint across no-man's-land. Will the East Berlin buses drive across no-man's-land to pick up their passengers or will the visitors be forced to walk this distance? At the moment this question remains unanswered.

The Red Cross and the St John's Ambulance Brigade will be out in force for "border duty" over Easter and Whitsun. They will assist crippled West Berliners Easter and Whitsun will be grimage to the East by picking them up and driving them to the border.

If there are accidents or sudden cases of sickness Red Cross ambulances will be permitted to drive to East Berlin and into the GDR without let or hindrance.

Senate spokesman Peter Herz is optimistic. He said: "We hope that for Berliners Eastern and Whitsun will be happy untroubled days in which to meet up with old friends and relations.

Peter Brehm

(Münchner Merkur, 14 March 1972)

Brezhnev's warning

Continued from page 1

Brandt has submitted as a gesture of goodwill.

Leonid Brezhnev has not only issued a warning; he has also canvassed support. He repudiates the allegedly absurd claim that Moscow plans to undermine the Common Market by declaring that the reality of Western European cooperation is accepted and will be accepted to the extent that Comecon is acknowledged to be a reality.

What is more, realistic proposals for detente are also made to President Nixon prior to the latter's visit to Moscow. Rapprochement between East and West will doubtless continue – regardless whether or not this country is prepared to play ball.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 March 1972)

Willy Brandt's Ostpolitik puts Erich Honecker on the spot

Relations between the two States that make up the German nation remain the acid test for the overall Ostpolitik pursued by the SPD/FDP coalition government. And nobody knows this better than the former Governing Mayor of Berlin Willy Brandt, the Federal Chancellor.

The Bonn government recently underlined this fact when it announced new initiatives in relations with East Germany and at the same time expressed clear priorities. First came ratification of the Treaties of Moscow and Warsaw and then normalisation of the relationship between the two Germanies.

It would not be possible for this process to develop in any other way. It is recognition of this fact that is the realistic motive force behind Brandt's and Scheel's policy.

Certainly it will not be possible to achieve normalisation of relations without the active cooperation of the GDR authorities.

But the striking contradictions in the East Berlin line are annoying people in this country, and what is more not only those who are opposed to the government's East Bloc policy.

These contradictions have also been marked in the attitude of Erich Honecker of the Socialist Unity Party, the East German communist party. Honnecker has on the one hand been speaking of peaceful coexistence and increased cooperation in all spheres including economics at the Leipzig Trade Fair, while at the same time pursuing a marked policy of demarcation against the Federal Republic.

These are divergent trends that can only be removed by means of dialectics. But they do call for the GDR leadership to come out with a clear and unambiguous decision about how it really feels towards the Federal Republic.

In the long run if the international move towards detente and the removal of tension continues – and if the Treaties of Moscow and Warsaw are ratified – this can only lead to increased contact between the two States, to increases in the opportunity for Germans from both sides of the demarcation lines to cross those lines and to an alleviation of the hindrances placed on trade and transport.

The new ideological line being taken by East Berlin as typified by the irritating "demarcation speech" made by Honecker in January to the army in Rügen can in this context not be taken as an argument for the West German Opposition in their efforts to overthrow the treaties but rather as an argument in favour of those treaties.

For the policy of demarcation is not a sign of sovereignty and self-awareness, but precisely the opposite, a clear indication of uncertainty and half-heartedness.

The traditional picture of the Federal Republic, painted by the East Germans as "an imperialistic and aggressive foreign country" loses a lot of its credibility for the people of the GDR the nearer Bonn approaches to Moscow and Warsaw.

It will have been noted in Moscow that East Berlin is taking a peculiarly stubborn and mulish line towards the moves for detente and that this has caused disruption that is not without its ill effects for the East Bloc as well, since it puts an extra strain on the Bonn government in its efforts to push the two treaties through the Bundestag.

Presumably the Kremlin has already stepped in and told the East Berlin regime to bring forward the border crossing provisions for this Easter and Whitsun.

Another factor backing up the theory that Moscow has intervened in East Berlin is that the newly begun talks between State Secretaries Egon Bahr (Bonn) and Michael Kohl (East Berlin) are pressing on apace, despite the difficulties Willy Brandt is experiencing in Bonn.

It appears that the SED has got into a dilemma precisely because of the continued successes of Bonn's policy of detente and the move for ratification of the treaties, and that the only way out of this dilemma is to make further concessions.

Thus the tricky and totally absurd little difficulties that are being created by the East Berlin authorities with regard to the issuing of permits to West Berliners to cross the border at Easter and Whitsun are nothing more than a defensive action taken by a GDR which is being pressured by its allies and which is hesitant.

These also show that Honecker and his colleagues need to play for time if they are to adjust to the new situation.

Bonn's post-ratification initiatives and the reminder of the twenty points drawn up at the Kassel meeting have come at the right time and serve to throw light on the fronts which had become dimmed – in the Federal Republic as well as in the German Democratic Republic.

Hartmut Tetsch

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 14 March 1972)

■ ARMED FORCES

Armed forces Ombudsman's report is unsettling

The latest report compiled by the Armed Forces Ombudsman is not only the longest ever, it is also the most honest. Free Democrat Fritz Rudolf Schultz, whose appointment to this post met with some opposition at the time, has given the Bundestag an unadorned picture of the state of the armed forces.

It would be a pity for the Bundestag to delay debating this report as usually happens and then only give it passing attention.

Schultz believes that discipline in the armed forces is not all that it should be. The report states that there has been a not inconsiderable increase in a number of offences such as being absent without leave, deserting, disobeying orders, using violence against officers and stealing from fellow-soldiers or army stores. But what does "not inconsiderable" mean? Schultz could have provided more accurate information.

Schultz also stated that he has received

DIE ZEIT

complaints about the general decline in military discipline and good order. Press reports complete this picture, he adds. But this again is a generalisation. No comparative material is provided.

It cannot be overlooked that Schultz, a former officer, attaches great importance to formal discipline in the armed forces. He also complains of course about the Defence Ministry ruling concerning hair and beards that allows members of the forces the same freedoms so far as fashion is concerned as other members of society generally enjoy.

This says little about the forces' fighting strength. Schultz does however differentiate between formal and functional discipline. Formal discipline can still be found in the traditional manner of saluting and addressing officers among other things. Functional discipline is the sort of ruling that a Starfighter pilot can keep his uniform partly unbuttoned as long as he is in complete command of his plane.

Authority based on what you know is gradually replacing authority based on how high up the ladder you are because arms systems have grown more complicated. Schultz realises this but he would still like to recommend a little more formal discipline.

The Armed Forces too are part of a society with an advanced technology. People who have always complained about soldiers being trained to be a society within a society will find their views refuted by Schultz's report.

When he notes that a lack of discipline and rebellious attitudes are not uncommon in the armed forces and that many officers tended to counteract it with increased strictness, he is only painting a picture of the world surrounding the Bundeswehr.

The Armed Forces Ombudsman is quick to point out that the armed forces have managed to come to terms with unrest among the young better than other institutions, by which he probably means schools and universities

It is to be hoped that the Bundestag will not tie itself down in details about the ruling on hair and beards when it comes to debate the report.

More important points are to be found in it. One of the gravest features is that conscientious objection is on the increase and that even members of the armed forces are tending to discuss the relationship between defence efforts and the present government's policy of detente.

Schultz confirms that the armed forces have overcome the problems that normally come from outside. But it is hard to overlook the fear that difficulties will increase and gradually prove too much for the armed forces.

Carl-Christian Kaiser
(Die Zeit, 17 March 1972)

Majority support conscientious objection

Sixty-nine per cent of West Germans approve of the right of conscientious objection while thirty per cent oppose it. Twenty per cent would like to see stiffer penalties for conscientious objectors, an Emnid survey conducted at the instigation of the Federal Press and Information Bureau between 20 January and 2 February 1972 revealed.

Twenty per cent of the interviewed sample wanted everything within the framework of existing laws to be done to keep the number of conscientious objectors as low as possible. Forty-three per cent want the conscientious objectors to be better employed in hospitals and similar institutions.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 16 March 1972)

Vice-Admiral Heinz Kühnle
(Photo: Archiv)

New role for the navy outlined by Vice-Admiral Kühnle

A decision of far-reaching importance was recently made at the Defence Ministry when Helmut Schmidt approved the new concept of the Navy's role put forward by Vice-Admiral Heinz Kühnle, Commander of the Navy.

This replanning was necessary because of Moscow's naval ambitions and the expansion of the Red fleet in the Baltic and Arctic.

The Navy has waited a long time for the decision. But earlier approval was not possible. All the factors involved in the replanning had to be considered and computer forecasts made before the best solution was found. All West Germany's partners, especially Nato, were consulted.

"The Navy's new role is based on Nato defence agreements and conforms to the requirements of our partners in the alliance," Vice-Admiral Kühnle commented. "More stress is placed in what the Navy can to to maintain peace. The important role of the Navy in ending crises is outlined and the Baltic, the Baltic approaches and the North Sea are se[...] a strategic unit. The new ideas take[...] account the changes in the naval ba[...] of power on Nato's northern flank."

The decisive factor was that the [...] sians included their navy more and [...] in their strategic planning and now [...] how important the sea can be. Co[...] between the various Russian bases [...] considerable that the fleets are extre[...] mobile.

That is why the threat is not lim[...] exclusively to the Baltic, the North Sea [...] the Arctic. Larger strategic units ha[...] be considered when judging naval [...] That is what the Russians do.

The new strategy allows armamen[...] be planned precisely up to 1976 at [...] New submarines now in the plannin[...] construction stage and the naval fig[...] bomber MRCA, the successor to [...] Starfighter F 104 G, fit in with the[...] plans.

The Hamburg class destroyers

Continued on page 5

Army produces new guidelines for civics lessons to recruits

"Name a Soviet Union satellite" the army captain asked his class of conscripts. The new recruits looked about vaguely and at the end of a long silence one of them suggested hesitantly, "Czechoslovakia." Other countries were then gradually mentioned.

Among other questions the fifty soldiers at the officer training centre in Hanover were asked during their civics lessons was "Did the Western Allies pull out of Europe after the Second World War or what did they do?" Silence reigned until finally a small voice came up with the answer no.

Discussions among the first division of the Armoured Corps show that officers tend to attack the poor state of the conscripts' knowledge of political affairs though this has improved in recent years.

Captain Balke, who has written a thesis on political education in the armed forces, states that far too many recruits – approximately a third – show no interest at all while another third are enthusiastic.

Wherever these statistics come from, the Bundeswehr must have some interest in giving recruits an idea of international affairs as well as training them militarily. If they are expected to put their lives in danger they should know why.

One hour a week is set aside for political science in their training timetable and a further one or two can be included. But a lot of this instruction loses its effect as few recruits read the political pages of the newspapers they have and classes generally consist of between 130 and 150 men – the total strength of a training company.

Company commanders responsible for political education face an almost impossible task. As their recruits include both workers and students, the politically indifferent and committed intellectuals, company commanders have to satisfy a wide range of intellectual needs.

Civics lessons allow the company commander to appear before his recruits more as a fellow-citizen than a superior officer. It is one of the few occasions he has to present the political reasons for his profession.

This also explains why the men responsible for setting up the Bundeswehr urged that political education should not be given by an officer specially appointed for this instruction but by the actual people who handle the weapons. It was planned to end the division of training into practical and political sections. This idea has proved its worth.

The belligerent-sounding concept of "intellectual armament" that has now given way to a less dramatic term conformed to the black and white ideological and military thinking in the late fifties.

Critics looking for proof of the Bundeswehr's revanchist ideology made frequent reference to Defence Ministry guidelines to army captains in charge of political education.

The old regulation ZDv 12/1 is now tacitly ignored within the Bundeswehr. Major-General Hildebrandt, the commander of the First Armoured Division in Hanover, states, "The old regulation was well out-of-date. It was time for it to be abolished. Nobody paid any attention to it. It was the feature of another age. Any person trying to enforce it would only be laughed at."

In the new guidelines valid until the end of 1972 details of the political situation are restricted to the why's and wherefores. Nowwhere is a picture of the enemy set out.

They also condense the long explanations that often gave company commanders the feeling of having to repeat all the history they had missed at school. But this state of affairs has now been ended. Captain Braunschmidt of the Eleventh Armoured Battalion in Hanover states, "We now only deal with aspects relevant to the actual position o[...] soldiers."

Though the subject matter has [...] reduced the number of subjects dis[...] has been increased. Officers can no[...] classes on basic rights, parliam[...] democracy, the system of alliances [...] role of the armed forces and any a[...] of current affairs relevant to the [...] forces.

The guidelines demand more info[...] tion instead of agitation. That is wh[...] demanded by the new type of so[...] compared with the recruits of ten ye[...] ago. Reservations against military se[...] have become more pronounced, e[...] among young workers. The upper e[...] lons of the military hierarchy notic[...] because of the increasing numb[...] complaints.

But staff officers hear this with [...] tience and sometimes with hum[...] "What we expect of conscripts is [...] baric," quips Major-General Hildebr[...] "They have to sacrifice their single [...] and sleep in barrack rooms. They [...] have to wear ugly uniforms but [...] surprising what they achieve."

Officers view the recruits' insist[...] upon their rights, their greater self-[...] fidence and the expression of non-[...] tary views during instruction as evid[...] of greater democratic awareness. And [...] the task of civics lessons to help t[...] profit from their democratic aware[...]

Hans-Anton Papendieck
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 March 1972)

■ COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Arendt calls for European policy concerning foreign workers

A new phase in the policy towards foreign workers is beginning to take shape in the industrial nations of Western Europe and the Federal Republic in particular.

The basis for this is a series of forecasts made by the highly-reputed French Institute for Population Studies. The number of foreign workers in Western Europe will double to 22 million by 1980 and the West German figure will triple to over 6.5 million.

In view of these figures – calculated according to present economic growth rates – more and more consideration is being paid to the extent and acceptability

Frankfurter Rundschau

of the social services expenditure arising from the inflow of foreign workers.

Greater attention has been paid to the long-delayed integration of foreign workers into West German society since 1970 when the Ministry of Labour's Foreign Worker Coordination Group put forward a list of principles that would achieve this end.

Considerable progress has been made, though mainly only on paper, in the housing, labour protection and training regulation sectors. Labour Minister Walter Arendt said only recently that further possibilities offered by courses of instruction, retraining and further training were being examined.

The disadvantages of this labour policy are also becoming apparent. Arendt told a European labour market conference in Düsseldorf that a permanent inflow of foreign workers coupled with a decline in the number of advantages and increasing expenditure could lead to a situation where there would be no more possibilities of economic growth.

Minister Arendt, a Social Democrat, was referring to the possible drop in labour-saving investments, the inflow of unproductive dependents and the decline in the regional mobility of the "active" foreign workers. Less money might also be available for schools, kindergartens, hospitals and other social institutions.

Arendt sees a European policy concerning foreign workers as a way out of this dilemma. This would include career training measures and the practical aids helping the foreign worker and his country to benefit from his work.

But the Paris Institute for Population Studies has pointed to further requirements. The industrial nations in Western Europe should provide much more help for setting up factories in the foreign workers' home country. The one-way labour force migration complained about by Walter Arendt could then be reversed.

If these proposals for a change in policy towards foreign workers really do take effect, progress made will have to be linked with a carefully-planned programme of development aid. Help could thus be given to those Mediterranean states such as Yugoslavia that have long complained about the loss of labour.

The expenditure problem in the foreign workers' host countries would not then be so acute. Money would perhaps be available for investment leading to increased productivity, rationalisation and greater economic growth. But it is impossible to work miracles. An abrupt reduction in the inflow of foreign workers would only result in a drop in economic growth and affluence.

Fritz Kral
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 18 March 1972)

Sport aids foreign workers integrate

A total of 2.1 million foreign workers are now to be found in the Federal Republic, 600,000 of them in the Federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia Associations, sports clubs, ministries and welfare organisations are all boncerned about them though there is no overall plan of action.

Study trips abroad show the types of sport open for these people. Team games stand in the forefront. Football has pride of place. There are a number of foreign football clubs in West Germany and they play friendlies against each other and belong to West German sport associations. Table tennis is preferred for forming groups.

In a number of sports such as wrestling or boxing where the competitor needs no partners the foreign workers have joined already existing West German clubs.

Sports clubs and associations can certainly make a valuable contribution towards the integration of the foreign worker and his dependents.

It may sound absurd but foreign workers drop socially when they come to West Germany despite the fact that they are earning more than in their homeland.

They are one of an anonymous mass fearful of the unaccustomed environment and unable to speak the language. Entry into a sports club help them forget their homesickness and allow them to occupy their leisure time sensibly.

There are difficulties of course. It takes a deal of good will to take the foreign mentality into account. The participation of teams of foreigners in local football competitions is looked upon as a preliminary stage to integrating foreign sportsmen in West German clubs and associations.

Existing regulations should be made more understandable to foreigners. Conferences with the chairmen of foreign clubs should help integration and referees help the sportsmen themselves. Excesses will never be avoided but they should be reduced to a minimum.

Dependents are involved along with their breadwinners. If more and more families are to come to West Germany something must be done for the women and children. The consulates back individual groups of foreigners when they try to set up clubs of their own but this does little to achieve integration.

West German clubs too do little to establish contacts at a grass-roots level. Entry into a local sports club most be made easier in future for foreign workers especially as many of them stay in this country far longer than they originally planned.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 15 March 1972)

Birth rate continues to plummet

The West German birth rate continued to drop last year. The Federal Statistics Bureau states that 776,500 live births were registered last year – 12.7 births to every thousand inhabitants. The previous year there had been 810,800 births.

A total of 727,400 people died last year – 11.9 per thousand inhabitants. The birth surplus went down from 76,000 to 49,100. The Statistics Bureau claims that this is due entirely to the births registered among foreign workers in the Federal Republic. There was probably no birth surplus among West Germans in 1971.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 March 1972)

Continued from page 4

Cologne class frigates will not be modified. Instead it is planned to replace these ships at the end of the seventies with new craft that are just being developed.

Minesweepers will continue to be modernised. Twenty-two Sea King rescue helicopters will be introduced from 1973 onwards. Modification of the Dornier 28 has begun.

No large units will be used in the Baltic in the event of conflict because of the particular geography of that area. Destroyers have no chance. Small practical vessel and naval fighters will be used.

The West German Navy and the Defence Ministry categorically deny that the Baltic has become a "Red Sea". "The Baltic is an international sea," Vice-Admiral Kühnle states, "and any country can use it. The West German Navy sails outside territorial waters and will do so to a greater extent in future."

Larger units are needed for the North Sea. Modern frigates are being planned in cooperation with other countries. The numbers involved are not yet known as construction work will not start for some time yet.

Compared with the Warsaw Pact navies, the West German Navy is numerically inferior. But Vice-Admiral Kühnle states that this comparison is not very reliable and stresses that the West German Navy belongs to Nato.

"This type of comparison can only be made between the Warsaw Pact and Nato as a whole," he comments. "The West German Navy and the navies of our neighbours play an important role within Nato and the new stategy takes this into account."

Helmut Berndt
(Kieler Nachrichten, 14 March 1972)

Number of handicapped increases

The number of West Germans who are physically handicapped is constantly increasing because of road and industrial accidents, according to Labour Minister Walter Arendt. There are an estimated five million people in the Federal Republic who are physically handicapped.

Walter Arendt stated in Mannheim at the thirteenth International Congress for the Handicapped that there were 517,000 road injuries and two and a half million industrial accidents last year alone.

The Minister stated that further backing would be given to medical care and professional rehabilitation. The Labour Ministry would soon publish two important bills concerned with rehabilitation, he said.

Rudolf Kleine, the Vice-President of the International Handicapped Association and the chairman of the Association of War Victims, Accident Victims and Dependents, stated that the rehabilitation measures taken in the Federal Republic were still unsatisfactory.

More than half a million of the 1.3 million handicapped children are of school age, Kleine states. The registration of such cases is completely inadequate; Kleine demanded that registration should be made compulsory.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 March 1972)

CDU leaders consider permitting aliens into the party

Christian Democrat leaders have been bold enough to consider permitting the participation of foreigners in their party. At first this idea seems to be seditious. Well over two million *Gastarbeiter* and other aliens live and work in the Federal Republic, some of them spending many years here.

Are they to be denied direct political influence in the country they have made their home from home? They are guaranteed the right of freedom of thought and free speech as much as West German nationals, but they do not enjoy the same rights of uncontrolled assembly and they do not have the vote.

For good reasons Basic Law and the aliens laws take a stricter line with aliens in this country than with German nationals, according to the provisions of the European Human Rights Convention.

It would rather be putting the cart before the horse if foreigners were to be granted relatively important positions on political parties before they have the franchise.

A much better plan would be for the parties to avoid this complicated detour and to come out in favour of amending the often very petty provisions governing naturalisation of aliens so that foreigners who have been in this country for a long time and stateless persons can take German nationality.

Another feasible idea is to grant foreigners from other EEC countries voting rights, but granting party membership to non-Germans is a privilege that should not be given.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 February 1972)

Law involving young people to be reformed

The government plans to lay more stress on education and less on supervision in its youth policy when it introduces a reform of laws helping the young. Minister of Health Käthe Strobel stated that the first proposals would be submitted in the spring of 1973.

The reform aims to satisfy young people's demands for emancipation and their right to education by providing a large number of educational establishments outside school, Käte Strobel stated.

The current laws in this field date from 1922 and lag behind the realities of the present situation as public steps to take care of children are only taken when neglect is imminent.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1 March 1972)

Increase in number of women who go out to work

Women workers are becoming an increasingly important economic factor and now make up 36.4 per cent of the total working population. Two years ago it was only 35 per cent.

Of the women at work today 574,000 are self-employed, 1.53 million work for their husbands or other members of their family, 229,000 are civil servants, 3.78 million are white-collar workers and some 3.5 million skilled and unskilled workers.

According to the latest information issued by the Federal Statistics Bureau 56.2 per cent of the 9.6 million working women are married, 32.3 per cent single and 11.5 per cent widowed or divorced.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 17 March 1972)

PETROLEUM AFFAIRS

OPEC presses for participation in international oil companies

DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

Oil producing and exporting countries which formed themselves into the OPEC organisation in 1970 and which enjoy more than three-quarters of the world's production of crude oil decided at a two-day conference in Beirut that they would press for larger shares in the world's oil and petrol companies.

Their spokesman, Sheikh Achmed Yamani, the Saudi Arabian minister responsible for petroleum affairs stated their demands and said that the OPEC countries were not prepared to accept any kind of compromise.

He is insistent that OPEC countries should have at least a twenty-per-cent share in the international oil giants and made it clear that this would be the basis upon which the oil producing countries would be negotiating oil prices in future.

At the moment when treaties are concluded between oil-producing and oil-consuming countries these are generally based on traditional bargaining methods that have been in operation for decades.

The oil producers have been trying for years to introduce new methods that would allow them to have a bigger say in the scales policies of the oil concerns. The aim of the oil producers in the Middle East has long since shifted away from simply trying to achieve higher prices for crude oil.

Now they are trying to achieve direct participation. But OPEC should be made to see, that extra participation involves extra responsibilities in good times and bad.

On the question of participation as such the OPEC countries are agreed. But so far they have not reached unanimity with regard to the manner in which this is to be brought about and the percentages involved.

The Libyans, represented by their militant leader Colonel Gaddafi, and the Nigerians, who are enjoying large royalties again after their civil war, are demanding more than the twenty per cent participation that has been suggested by Saudi Arabia.

The Libyans obviously have the Algerian plan in mind and are aiming for a fifty per cent share, or even 51 per cent. The Nigerians would be content with one third.

The oil-producing countries on the Arabian Gulf, who were the chief spokesmen at the OPEC conference in Geneva in January, would be content with twenty per cent at the outset.

The only encouraging sign to have come from the direction of the oil companies so far originates from the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) which would be prepared to go along with Saudi Arabia's suggestion.

It is possible to see how difficult such participation would be by the fact that negotiations have not yet led to the creation of a basis for calculation of the individual shares.

The OPEC countries are stubbornly insisting that the net value of the oil concerns should be taken as the basis, while the oil companies themselves suggest that capital investments and average profit quotients should be taken into consideration.

Some Middle East oil producers have their own national oil companies that are doing well and conclude bilateral importation agreements with oil importing countries.

Recently the Iraq National Oil Company (INOC) and Italy's ENI concluded a ten-year contract for the supply of twenty million tons of crude oil. The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), a nationalised Iranian company, has considerably increased its dealings in recent years. It has shares in refinery projects in Belgium and South Africa and negotiations are under way with BP for licences to drill in the North Sea.

The heads of State in the larger oil-producing countries in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have only concluded agreements within OPEC. These will involve much closer cooperation. The Ministers of Petroleum Affairs in these two countries form to a certain extent the heart of the pressure group of the oil-producing countries.

The Kuwait oil company belongs fifty-fifty to British Petroleum and the American Gulf Oil Corporation. Shares in the Arab Aramco are held by Esso, Standard Oil of California, Texaco and Mobil Oil.

Oil-producing countries along the coast of the Persian Gulf know their importance on international oil markets. In 1971 they produced about 800 million tons of crude oil, exactly one third of world production and forty per cent of production in the free world.

Half of the crude oil that comes on the world market originates from the States along the Persian Gulf. It is well known that if Saudi Arabia's Petroleum Minister Sheikh Yamani adds to the tough negotiating of the oil concerns with a temperamental ultimatum "unilateral measures" will be taken ...

Since this demand for participation is completely new territory for the oil-producing countries the other side is treating this development with the utmost caution. Outbreaks of passion are all part of the negotiating game and have little concrete significance. OPEC countries have so far refused to name deadlines and are talking in vague terms of late '72 or early '73.

The oil concerns have in fact got more leverage. If the oil-producing countries do obtain shares there will immediately be a state of competition and rivalry. And the rivalry will become fiercer especially if the producing countries enter the oil products market.

In Iran, too, the consequences of this are well known. The Iranians have had similar experiences with their own nationalised company NIOC. From this point of view the discussion that has been going on in recent days about the possibility of a crude oil supply agreement between Teheran and Bonn is to be condemned.

Oil companies in West Germany took this news with the projected figure of ten million tons with a huge pinch of salt. It is well known that talks have been going on with Iran for a long time. NIOC only controls an annual supply of seven million tons of crude oil every year and this has a high sulphur content. As a company it is not flexible enough to meet Bonn's requirements.

The fact that both sides are handling this business with a good deal of hesitation can be attributed to the fact that there is a certain amount of shyness about simply skating round the concerns.

They would take a very dim view of things if the oil-supplying countries took unilateral action and their customers, the oil consumers, would be even more bitter about it. ...

Three quarters of the crude oil requirements of the Federal Republic are met by tankers and pipelines belonging to the major concerns. Only a quarter of our needs can be met by West German companies.

This is the concern of Deminex, the West German crude oil supply comp... which controls companies such as V... Chemie, Gelsenberg, Wintershall ... others.

It is possible that at a later ... Deminex will step in, where ... concerned.

Bonn has a job to do here as ... namely to strengthen this group so th... can make a grand entry with ... financial and political potential.

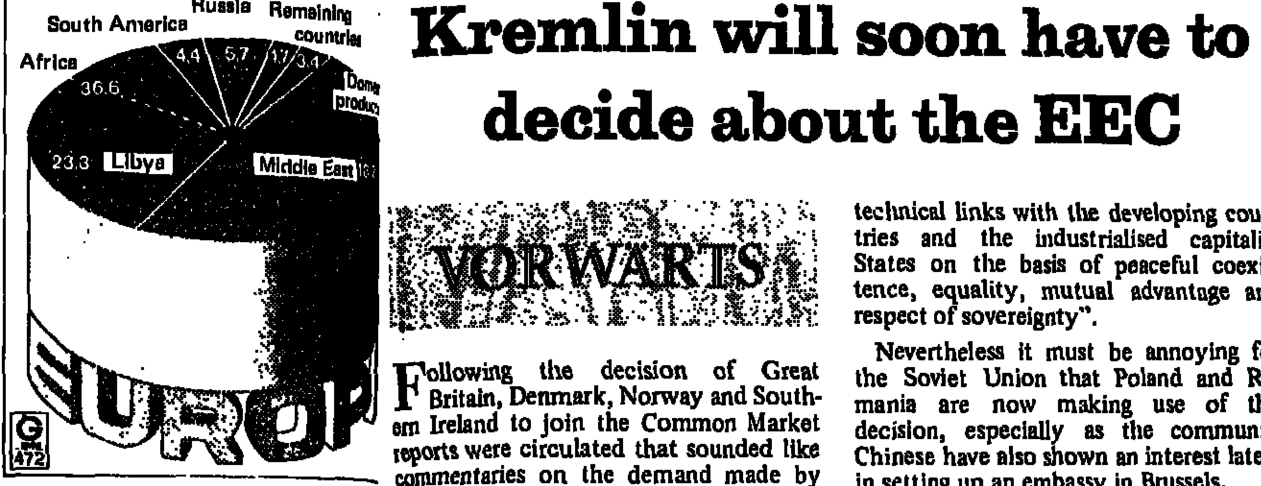
Then a project that is at present ... discussed by Deminex on the one ... and Britain's BP on the other wou... feasible in this context.

Deminex has been offered the ch... of a twenty per cent share in a ... concession from the Sheikhdom of Abu Dhabi.

The cost of this scheme would b... million Marks in loans and guarantees ... the bill would be passed on to Bonn. ... final decision has not yet been taken ... is decided to go ahead with the proj... the first year of operation alone ... million tons of crude oil could come ... this concession. This country would ... be importing oil from reserves th... almost inexhaustible.

Helmut Rock

(Deutsche Zeitung, 17 March ...)



ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Kremlin will soon have to decide about the EEC

VORWÄRTS

Following the decision of Great Britain, Denmark, Norway and Southern Ireland to join the Common Market reports were circulated that sounded like commentaries on the demand made by Rainer Barzel that the EEC should be recognised by the Soviet Union.

The president of the EEC Commission recently received a note from the Rumanian government asking the EEC to grant customs preferences such as are already enjoyed by the developing countries.

A few months ago the Polish government suggested to the EEC that they should conclude an agreement on cotton textiles.

The diplomatic committee of the EEC is handling both these applications at the present moment. Up till now something like twenty agreements have been concluded between the countries of the East Bloc and the EEC, including the membership of the CSSR, Poland and Rumania to Gatt, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The significance of these reports increased when it was learnt that a group of twelve Western European banks, led by the French Credit Lyonnais had announced that it was prepared to lend the RGW Bank (the bank of the Comecon countries) fifty million dollars for a period of several years.

Even if the EEC were not directly involved in this transaction it would if it came off be a symptomatic move in the growing cooperation between the two economic blocs.

So far the attitude of the Polish and Rumanian governments to the EEC has had very little in common with that of the Russians.

Moscow has so far taken the line that the EEC is an instrument of industrial power that is levelled against the socialist community of States, as the East Berlin paper *Horizont* recently rattled out. Numerous RGW resolutions back up this attitude.

On the other hand the committee meetings of the RGW have formally permitted the individual members "to develop their economic, scientific and technical links with the developing countries and the industrialised capitalist States on the basis of peaceful coexistence, equality, mutual advantage and respect of sovereignty".

Nevertheless it must be annoying for the Soviet Union that Poland and Rumania are now making use of this decision, especially as the communist Chinese have also shown an interest lately in setting up an embassy in Brussels.

But if it is taken for granted that Rumania and Poland acted thus with the blessing of Moscow it was certainly a fascinating piece of doublethink.

Up till now the Soviet government has warned those States that showed an interest in forming links with the EEC. This not only applies to their neutral neighbours Finland, whose government only sought loose links with the Common Market, but also Norway and Denmark.

The Communist Party organ *Pravda* recently warned that entry into the European Economic Community would mean a danger to national sovereignty.

In Norway and Denmark the communist parties have led a bitter battle against entry. On the other hand it is a well-known fact that the communist-led trades unions in France and Italy have been cooperating on EEC bodies for years.

It is reckoned in EEC circles in Brussels that the Soviet Union will shortly be showing a more tolerant line towards the EEC since the Kremlin has had enough experience of dealing with realities and knows how to look them in the face without flinching.

It has not yet been decided whether the new attitude will lead to direct agreements between the EEC and Comecon or whether it will result in individual agreements between RGW countries and the EEC headquarters. Presumably this will depend on what results from the European security conference.

Quite independently of this, however, there is a deadline coming up which will force the Soviet leaders to make a clearcut decision. At the beginning of next year the individual EEC States will no longer be able to conclude trade treaties with other countries off their own bat.

Such treaties will then have to be made via the EEC. Since negotiations for new trade treaties between EEC and RGW States must be introduced before the end of this year the Kremlin has only a few months to make up its mind about the EEC.

Werner Lucas

(Vorwärts, 16 March 1972)

GDR trade will not jeopardise EMU

Inter-German trade does not pose an obstacle to the development of the EEC into an Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), according to the West German Chambers of Trade and Commerce (DIHT).

Trade with the GDR only made up 1.9 per cent of the Federal Republic's overall foreign trade in 1970. And furthermore the government is doing everything in its power to avoid disrupting the markets of its EEC partners.

Trade between the two Germanies, DIHT say, only serves to help the exchange of goods and services between the two States involved. No goods of foreign origin were bought via the GDR.

According to the DIHT's Bonn office nearly 9,000 West German companies were involved in about 42,000 contracts with East Germany in 1971.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 10 March 1972)

Increased trade with Russia

There was a pleasing development in West German-Soviet Trade in the past year. According to West German sources in Moscow turnover in trade in both directions increased as compared with 1970 as well as trade via third party countries. The increase was by about three per cent to 2,900 million Marks.

The value of exports from the Federal Republic to the USSR was 1,600 million Marks. Imports accounted for 1,300 million Marks.

As a result of a number of special agreements direct trading increased substantially. At present trade with the Soviet Union is 1.2 per cent of total West German foreign trading.

The main emphasis of West German exports was machinery and equipment. This included supplies for the Soviet motor industry as well as to Soviet chemicals firms and food processors.

For the first time the Soviet Union sold the Federal Republic seven bus-stop jets of type JAK 40.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 March 1972)

Dollar is still ailing

If all went according to plan the great bout of spring torpor would be just about breaking out on the West German currency markets. The oft mentioned causes of the flood of dollars in recent weeks have been whittled away. The Bundesbank has lowered interest rates so that there would be no further flood of dollars from those who like to speculate in countries where interest rates are above average.

The Bonn government has brought in the cash deposit legislation which is viewed by many as a powerful weapon in the fight against currency speculators. And finally the Senate and Congress in Washington cleared the air by signing the agreement to devalue the dollar which President Nixon had approved in December.

But despite all predictions the flood of dollars into Europe has not abated. The rate of exchange of the dollar has once again come dangerously close to the level at which intervention becomes necessary.

The Bundesbank and Bonn government only had temporary success in their efforts to ward off the in-coming dollars. Now they are completely perplexed.

It would be illusory to expect an end to dollar speculation in the next few months. Mistrust in the American currency is so deep-rooted that the cure can only come from America itself. And the Americans feel that by devaluing the dollar they have done their bit for the time being.

So the protectors of currencies in Europe are likely to have a few nasty surprises in the coming months. Sceptics are already comparing the situation with that of last May when floating the Mark was supposed to bring salvation. A renewed floatation is out of the question and so there is only one possibility. There must be tighter controls on currency exchange in Europe. Not a pleasant move, but a permanent crisis is the alternative.

(Die Zeit, 10 March 1972)

Consumer survey indicates a rosy future

For the first time since 1969 consumers can see the way ahead clearly. The gloom that settled in the late autumn of last year seems to have been dispelled, according to the Institute for Applied Social Sciences (Infas) in Bad Godesberg, Bonn. They base this conclusion on the results of the latest of their monthly consumer surveys.

There were still 26 per cent of the thousand people asked in February who felt pessimistic about economic developments. Only 21 per cent said they were optimistic. But there has been a clear change in this trend.

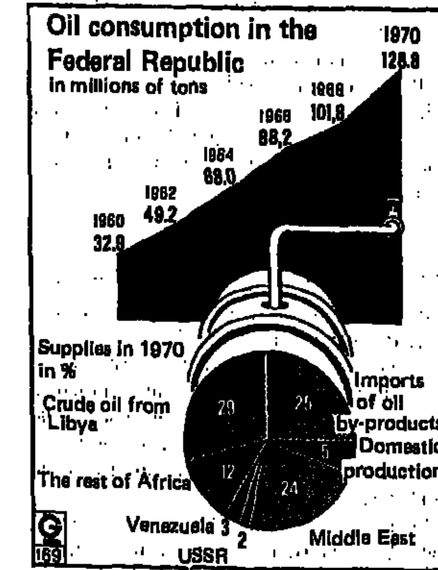
Last November 37 per cent of those asked felt that the economy was likely to deteriorate further and only fifteen per cent felt confident that things were on the mend.

According to the survey more people now expect their income to rise. 42 per cent expect a rise before the year is out. 52 per cent feel that their income will not change this year by any substantial amount and only five per cent thought they would be worse off.

According to Infas this expectation of a higher income is encouraging people to think of spending. In this respect the high point of November 1969 has almost been reached again.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 9 March 1972)

West Germany's oil supplies are far from secure



West Germany lacks sources of oil on its own territory and depends as much as ever on imports. As consumption continues to increase this dependence will become even greater.

In 1971 this country imported one hundred million tons of crude oil and over 35 million tons of finished and semi-finished products with oil as the base. Compared with this amount of oil produced in this country – 7,400,000 tons – was modest in the extreme.

Experts estimate that by 1975 this will have dropped even further to just five million tons a year. But by 1980 West Germany's oil requirements will have risen to two hundred million tons a year.

At the moment most of this country's imported oil comes from Africa and the Middle East. The share of the former is declining and that of the latter increasing. In 1970 it was 57.5 per cent from Africa, while in 1971 the proportion had dropped to 53 per cent. In the same period the proportion being imported from the Middle East rose from 34 per cent to forty per cent.

The high degree of dependence on imports is an unsatisfactory state of affairs for an industrial country such as the Federal Republic.

Even the EEC Commission has pointed out that the trading policies of the major oil companies should be adjusted to the requirements of the world oil market, in accordance with their worldwide activity.

This gives rise to a major cause of uncertainty. And over the years this uncertainty will grow. Back in 1970 the Americans stated on the petroleum committee of the OECD that from 1975 they would be importing more oil from the Middle East and Africa. So, in certain crisis situations the arrangements ... those oil companies that supply ... United States would affect the Eur... market.

This comes as no surprise since the United States, like every other State tends to think along national lines ... it comes to securing supplies of vita... materials. Its policies are formed along these lines.

The Federal Republic's neighbours ... the West are no exception to the... Great Britain and the Netherlands ... their jointly owned companies BP ... Shell have access to sources of oil all ... the world.

France and Italy have nationalised companies with strong positions in the business. The Federal Republic's position is not so strong as a result of the Na... attempt at autarchy and develop... since the War.

Independent West German petro... companies have refineries that process about thirty million tons of oil every year, twenty-five per cent of ... country's oil consumption. They are ... to obtain 7.5 million tons of crude from their own wells in this country ... abroad, but still have to find 75 per ... of their total requirements.

Deminex is out to rectify this un... factory state of affairs. Deminex ... formed back in 1964 as a loosely ... working group, but its existence was short when the State financing stopped during the 1966/67 recession.

In 1968 the Bonn government re-...

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

its fuel and power policy, taking in petroleum as well. At this juncture Deminex was revived as "The West German Oil Supply Society, Deminex, Limited".

There were eight associate members including the RWE Group (Gelsenberg and Wesseling), Veba AG and Wintershall AG. They got the idea off to a new start. The Federal Republic, like other countries, requires generous expenditure from the government to help firms in this country find and exploit sources of oil. No firm has enough money to prospect and drill from its own funds.

In 1969 the government agreed to grant Deminex 575 million Marks for this work. The associate members have thrown in 195 million Marks of their own money. This gave Deminex a total budget of 770 million Marks for the period 1970 to 1974.

Thus Deminex was given a start but it is not enough if all the aims are to be achieved. It is hoped that in the latter half of the seventies West German petroleum companies will have sufficient sources of crude oil to cover their needs. By 1980 their requirements will have exceeded the 50 million tons per annum mark.

Deminex, mostly working in conjunction with other groups, is prospecting for oil in nine countries and in the North Sea. At the moment Deminex and the others are tasting the bitter fruits of failure.

But a new project is in the wind and success is assured. This involves a share in oil concessions off the coast of the Arab sheikhdom of Abu Dhabi. British Petroleum (BP) is prepared to let Deminex have twenty per cent of its concession.

If the demands made by the sheikhdom are fulfilled this will mean that in the end Deminex will have a 10.67 per cent share of the total concession.

This would provide the group with between ten million and 12,500,000 tons of crude oil each year for the next twenty years.

This deal involves an initial expenditure of 150 to 200 million dollars. In addition to this further investments up till 1980 will cost more than five million.

At the moment there is nothing else so favourable on offer. Nevertheless these sums are in excess of the finance available to Deminex. Thus the decision whether this opportunity is to be grasped or let slide lies with the Bonn government.

It is a question of finance as well as a guarantee for acceptance of foreign capital and de-fusing of the political risks.

Considering the vital importance of supplies of crude oil for this country's fuel and power needs the government should decide to give the go-ahead to this project and it should waste no time in giving its approval.

(Vorwärts, 16 March 1972)

ASTRONOMY

Giant telescope will be probing the outer universe by 1980

Provided scientists' hopes are fulfilled a new reflecting optical telescope will enable them by 1980 to scan the ends, if not the beginnings, of the universe.

The 27-ton reflector, the largest of several, has just been cast by Schott of Mainz. It will be erected in one of the two observatories planned for the northern and southern hemispheres by the Max Planck Institute of Astronomy, Heidelberg.

The diameter of the reflector will be 3.5 metres. The famous Mount Palomar telescope in California has a diameter of 5 metres but the new device will, it is claimed, be more than a match for it.

The Heidelberg astronomers are confident that their new telescope will outscan the Californian telescope, for many years the most powerful optical device in the world.

It will, they maintain, comprise far more costly optical systems and involve new and up-to-the-minute control techniques.

One of the main improvements is zerodur, the new glass ceramic material used for the mirror reflector surface. It has the advantage of virtually no heat expansion.

This will facilitate the avoidance of errors in measurement and observation that occur when conventional glass is used as a result of expansion and contraction caused by changes in temperature.

Zerodur contains crystals embedded in a glass base that expand in one direction like a spring in response to heat but contract vertically at the same time.

Schott research engineers state, however, that on balance the material contracts. The crystals contract in response to heat while the surrounding glass expands. The net change is virtually zero and the manufacturers also claim that their material has a greater degree of transparency than any other artificial glass.

The newly cast reflector bowl must be cooled down gradually and evenly over a matter of months. Otherwise it might crack and shatter. Only then can it be ground and further processing be carried out.

The Max Planck Institute reckons it will take from six to eight years before the telescope is operational. The first observations will thus be made in about 1980.

The Heidelberg astronomers have yet to make up their minds where to erect the new telescope, however. Their new facilities at Königsstuhl, scheduled to be taken into service in 1974, will merely be the headquarters for preparatory work on the main project.

One observatory is to be located in the northern hemisphere and one in the southern in order to ensure maximum coverage of the sky.

The main criterion in the choice of location is as large a number of clear night skies as possible.

For the site of the northern observatory an agreement is shortly to be concluded with the Spanish government. After careful checks the Max Planck Institute has opted for a 2,168-metre (7,120-ft) mountain peak in south-east Spain, sixty kilometres north of Almeria.

The astronomers expect an average of 200 nights a year in which they will be able to carry out a full six hours of observation. In the interim period a 1.2-metre telescope belonging to the Federal Republic Research Association, the Schmidt reflector of Hergedorf Observatory, Hamburg, and a 2.2-metre telescope due for delivery in 1973 will be used.

The 3.5-metre device could be erected in Spain but the Heidelberg astronomers would prefer to locate it in the southern hemisphere, which does not yet [illegible] anything in the way of large op[tical] telescopes.

Possible sites include the approach[es of] the Chilean Andes at a point some [illegible] kilometres north of Santiago de Chile [or] Gamsberg, 2,350 metres (7,700 ft) [near] Windhoek, South-West Africa. The [Afri]can location is, of course, more [easily] accessible from this country.

South Africa, it is also felt, would [be a] welcome addition to other projects [al]ready planned by European and [Afri]can countries for Latin America.

The Heidelberg team, headed by [direc]tor Professor Hans Elsässer, foresees [a] great future for optical astronomy des[pite]

Continued on page 9

Technicians at the Schott works, Mainz, moulding the glass reflector for the [illegible] telescope being built for the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Heidelberg (Photo: Sc[illegible])

AUTOMOBILES

VW loses ground with new models only at drawing-board stage

Since mid-March a complete board of directors has been on the waiting-list for a new directorship in the motor industry. The latest top manager to join the ranks of the unemployed, as it were, is Werner Holste, ex-head of research and development at Volkswagen.

Professor Holste, 44, joins his former board chairman Kurt Lotz, who took him on at Volkswagen some three years ago. Then there is Paul G. Hahnemann, ex-sales director at BMW, and Friedrich W. Pollmann, ex-financial director at BMW and Audi-NSU.

It is rumoured that there will soon be a waiting-list for individual board appointments and *Bild-Zeitung* and *Der Spiegel* are for once agreed that the next man for the axe will be Volkswagen sales director Carl Hahn.

VW board chairman and hatchet man Rudolf Leiding will hear nothing of these rumours. "No truth in them at all", he says.

Rumours of another board crisis at VW was not the only alarming news for Volkswagen shareholders last week. It was announced in Frankfurt that the dividend was to be more than halved from 18.5 to nine per cent.

And in Flensburg the Motor Vehicle Registration Office, reporting sales figures for January, noted that Opel and Ford had for once sold better than Volkswagen.

The Wolfsburg board is not too worried by the bad news. Horst Backsmann, only recently appointed head of public relations by board chairman Leiding yet already reported by *Der Spiegel* to be next for the sack, reckons Holste's departure is nothing out of the ordinary.

And as regards the poor sales figures, Leiding forecast least year that Volkswagen would have to go through a sticky patch.

Sales director Hahn is, of course, the man who, as far as the board is concerned, is most badly hit by the trough. This year and in all probability until autumn next year he will have to do his best to sell a Volkswagen range that Wolfsburg would prefer to replace here and now rather than over the next few years with Leiding's new range.

The only exceptions to this projected phase-out are the Beetle (no one in Wolfsburg is even considering naming the date of the Beetle's demise) and the VW transporter.

"The Beetle", Backsmann assures all comers, "has reached a peak. Every day 5,600 Beetles are manufactured all over the world." Market trends on the other hand indicate that the Beetle's days as the best Volkswagen buy are over and done with. It has passed its peak both in this country and in the United States.

Last year's sales figures for the two major markets were poor. This January's have been even worse. If the trend continues 1972 will be Volkswagen's worst year ever.

In this country last year's Volkswagen sales represented a drop of 33,519 units on the 1970 figure (the Audi-NSU division reported a decline of 11,439 vehicles sold). VW's share of the market reached an all-time low of 22.5 per cent, in 1965 having stood at 32.5 per cent.

Yet all in all 1971 was a further record year in this country's longest-lasting car sales boom in the post-war period. Sales increased overall by a further two per cent. Last year was a record year in the North American market too, but not for Volkswagen. VW of America's sales figures declined by roughly 50,000 to 522,000 units.

In the first two months of this year American manufacturers reported considerable sales improvements on January and February 1971, but — again — not VW. In January Volkswagen's sales declined sixteen per cent in comparison with the corresponding period a year

American small cars and the Japanese, some of them at least, are less expensive than the Beetle. What is more, the Beetle seems to be waving goodbye to its special image in the United States.

"Signs are on the increase," *Fortune* reports, "that the Beetle has seen the last of its days of glory."

January in this country was an even chillier month for Volkswagen. Statistics issued by the Motor Vehicle Registration Office show that in the private car sector (excluding vans) Volkswagen got off to an uncommonly bad start.

At the same time the competition almost without exception did quite well. Fiat sales were up 45 per cent, Opel and Ford thirteen and five per cent respectively. The average sales increase on January 1971 was eight and a half per cent.

For the first time ever Fords sold better than Volkswagen, even if the margin was narrow. With a 13.5-per-cent share of the market Volkswagen came third, Daimler-Benz at fourth place cornering no less than 13.1 per cent. January, of course, is only one of twelve months.

Yet the prospects of Volkswagen performing better are slender, to say the least. In the family saloon class the new Ford and Opel models will undoubtedly set up new sales records and at the lower end of the scale Fiat and Renault are making the running.

Wolfsburg has nothing new to offer, not even a revamped version of the VW 1600 or the K 70.

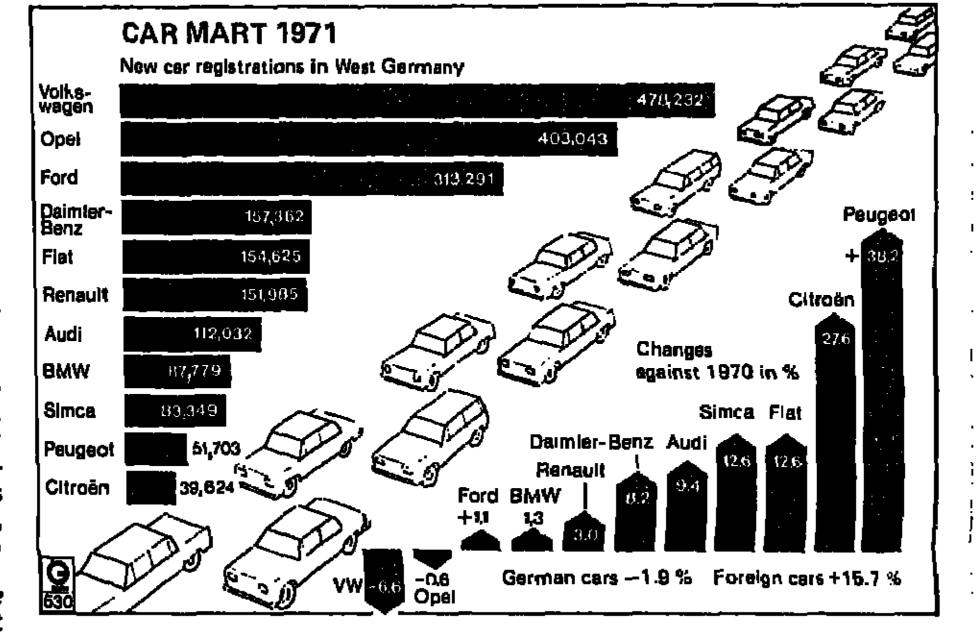
So in the two major markets Volkswagen will continue to lose ground this year. VW will probably sell fewer cars overall.

This will be the case even if the domestic economy remains healthy (and fortunately it is less and less likely that there will be a recession). If the dollar weakens and VW prices have to be increased in North America the situation will be even worse.

The situation overall is not quite so gloomy, though. Despite sales setbacks in this country and North America international production figures and turnover continued to increase.

Volkswagen have factories in Brazil, Mexico and South Africa and assembly plants in Venezuela, Belgium, Australia and Indonesia. New factories in Yugoslavia, Thailand and Nigeria are on the drawing-board.

Overseas news is not all good news, however. The Japanese are making progress in Switzerland and Britain, both important export outlets for VW. In Canada and Finland Japanese manufacturers already outsell Volkswagen.



Toyota and General Motors intend to hot up competition in Brazil and one can but conclude that both in this country and abroad Volkswagen are badly in need of a breather. The others are not.

It is not only the sales prospects that are poor. Profits are also taking a knock. Even after fair-sized price increases in January sales of private cars are still not a money-spinner for VW. The two dead-weights are the two models that are the most complex and expensive, the K 70 and the super-Beetle.

Export sales profits have been eaten into by revaluation, which has put up prices by an average ten per cent, not to mention increased wage costs.

Board chairman Leiding reckons that these increases will represent additional costs to the tune of 1,000 million Marks a year.

The only silver lining at present is Audi. The Ingolstadt range with their Salzgitter engines are selling well both in this country and abroad. An addition to the Audi range is the only newcomer expected this autumn.

The four-model range of the future, using largely identical components and design features, is mainly based on development work and the know-how of the Ingolstadt team.

In Wolfsburg the take-over of the Audi design concept is termed integration of Ingolstadt's work in the concern as a whole. This integration was, in the final analysis, what led to the resignation of Professor Holste.

The new range, Leiding hopes, will enable Volkswagen to offer a variety of vehicles to suit all tastes and pockets. In terms of both engineering and economics it represents an ideal solution. Whether the market will welcome the new Volkswagen is another matter.

The dress rehearsal is scheduled for 1974 at the latest. But Rudolf Leiding is in a hurry. He would prefer to introduce the new models in the autumn of 1973 at the latest.

A two-year breather, costing money and a slice of the market, is too long for the VW boss. "What progress we would have made today," he says, "if I had started here four years ago."

Rolf Diekhof

(Die Zeit, 17 March 1972)

Continued from page 8

the advent of radioastronomy and space travel.

Newly discovered cosmic objects such as pulsars, quasars and radiogalaxies still need optical examination, particularly spectral analysis to provide information about their composition.

Within the Milky Way, for instance, there are relatively new stars due for scrutiny to determine whether, as a number of scientists feel, complex organic molecules that form the basis of life develop at an early stage of a heavenly body's existence.

With the aid of powerful reflecting telescopes the Heidelberg team also hope to be able to gaze far back into the cosmic past and study objects the light of which has travelled billions of years before coming into sight.

The large reflector newly cast in Mainz is also designed to help them to scrutinise light particles that hail from far-off corners of the universe.

Professor Elsässer and his colleagues feel it to be by no means out of the question that they may one day sight the beginnings of the world. *Klaus Müller*

(Die Welt, 9 March 1972)

Corrosion is a menace car owners should watch carefully

The older a car is, the greater the risk driver and passengers run of coming to grief in the event of an accident. Creeping corrosion steadily reduces the ability of the pressed steel to absorb impact energy and prevent serious injury to life and limb.

This decline in stability sets in when a car is over the age of two. A five-year-old car is twice as dangerous as a new one.

This surprising conclusion is the result of a series of crash tests recently completed by the department of motor vehicle technology at Berlin technical university.

A team headed by Professor G. Grossmann crashed seventeen rigid objects against various points of the car bodies and nineteen times in succession allowed a 600-kg test vehicle to roll into the side of a stationary vehicle at a speed of between 25 and 28 kilometres an hour (roughly fifteen mph).

The idea behind these tests was to simulate the impact of two vehicles at various angles and side-on crashes against stationary obstacles.

New vehicles were dented in much the same way as old crocks but their doors stayed in place and the impact was absorbed to a certain extent.

The delay caused by absorption when a car crashes into a wall at thirty miles an hour may be only a hundredth of a second but this is enough to save the lives of driver and passengers when it comes to the crunch.

"The body of an old car responds to impact," Professor Grossmann concluded, "like paper. The pressed steel of a new car behaves like cardboard."

"In an accident," Dr Grossmann continued, "the concertina zone of an old car is brushed aside as though it were not there. The rigid parts of the car body have to bear the brunt. As a result twice as much force is transferred directly to the passenger compartment.

"Safety belt anchorage points and fuel tank bolts are frequently not up to this amount of stress. They snap. The accidents that then occur are serious."

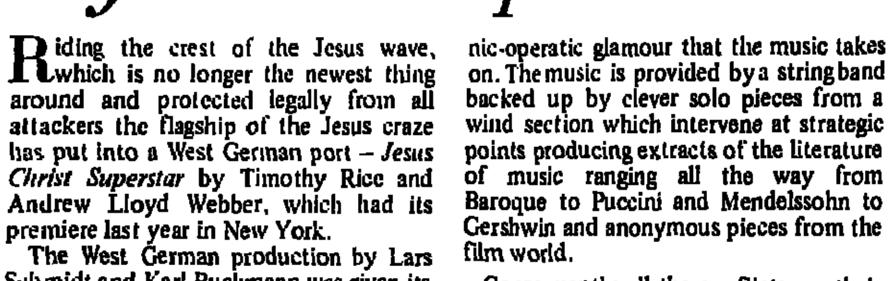
Statistics provide some indication of the practical significance of the Berlin test conclusions. Twenty-three per cent of all crashes are side-on collisions.

Yet the whole idea of carrying out the tests was something of a coincidence. Hartmut Rau, the man immediately in charge of the tests, merely wanted to kill time. He experimented with used cars because the new models had not yet been delivered.

The research team now feel that their conclusions deserve serious attention. Cars, they maintain, ought only to be allowed on the roads for a specified period of time. *Rainer Wagner*

(Welt am Sonntag, 12 March 1972)

PERFORMING ARTS



Münster production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* fails

Riding the crest of the Jesus wave, which is no longer the newest thing around and protected legally from all attackers the flagship of the Jesus craze has put into a West German port – *Jesus Christ Superstar* by Timothy Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, which had its premiere last year in New York.

The West German production by Lars Schmidt and Karl Buchmann was given its sendoff in Münster, Westphalia, although this production has been pre-empted by a performance by pirates from Toledo, Ohio, which usurped the rights of the German producers, played to half empty theatres and presumably gained an artistic advantage by doing away with all the trappings of scenery. And when it came to putting the music down on wax the success could be counted in terms of millions.

Jesus Christ Superstar, this title is intended to be understood as an equation. It may not have achieved a great aesthetic success, but from the economic point of view it has had success enough.

This is the background to the production that is now being put on in Münster which is expected to have a run of about twelve months through the halls of mass entertainment. It may serve as a glowing example of how to absorb artistic means into normal entertainment.

Management of the production is in the hands of Robert Stigwood and David Land, perhaps the ideal team from the point of view of market strategy.

Here, for example is that Jesus that has been subjected to historical and critical examination and reduced in stature to human measurements. This is the Jesus that today's youngsters can call their own and have by their side restoring the mythical and legendary elements.

On the other hand here is the Jesus subjected to the general illusions that a superstar spreads around him. This is a superhuman human, indeed a monster from which all lower life, all humanity shrinks. A Jesus that has never suffered, a triumphant leader who constantly has to turn up trumps as a kind of Batman of religion.

This is Jesus in the glow of publicity, on a platform, under a battery of stage lights and surrounded by loudspeakers.

The stage setting is extravagant and no one has been miserly with microphones, boom microphones, necklace microphones, hand-held microphones.

When Rainer Schöne as Jesus is lifted up hydraulically to his apotheosis there is even a microphone ready to capture his "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do".

The musical, which is described as a rock opera, was written by Timothy Rice and made into a musical version of the last seven days in the life of Christ.

It covers all the familiar facets of the passion such as the Last Supper and the crowning with thorns.

The work is a ritual with surging, pulsing sound coordinated by Rolf Kühn and choreographic collective impulses that are linked with the "tradition" of the Rock and Tribe Musical, particularly with *Hair* and the central hit *Hosanna Heysanna* is particularly reminiscent of the hippy musical.

This was of course also produced in New York by Tom O'Horgan.

The music by Andrew Lloyd Webber also tries to create this Rock and Tribe atmosphere with stepped up tempi, stamping ostinati, chromatic sequences, ending up with a kind of intoxication in a pseudo-modern manner.

But this effect is spoilt by the symphonic-operatic glamour that the music takes on. The music is provided by a string band backed up by clever solo pieces from a wind section which intervene at strategic points producing extracts of the literature of music ranging all the way from Baroque to Puccini and Mendelssohn to Gershwin and anonymous pieces from the film world.

Consequently all the conflicts run their course as a farce. There is support from muted drums or a choir which comments on Judas' treachery and friend and foe often bawl at each other.

The lighting is so done that the figures appear as woodcuts à la Oberammergau, but then they take a microphone in their hand and acoustically they are swallowed up in the Nirvana of show songs.

Mary often seems as though she is Caterina Valente in a world of gospel singing. Pilate seems to be amusing himself with eclectic Kurt Weill noises, and somewhere in the midst of it all we seem to come across Sandie Shaw.

This rock drama might be described as an operetta in off-beat and the German production is pretty amateurish.

It could be said that large sections of Lester Wilson's choreography with hip swinging and agile gogo movements could have failed because of the incapability of German singer-actors to carry off artistic all-round perfection.

Many of the imaginative bits take careful consideration of the artistic and cultural gap between light entertainment in the United States of America and the Federal Republic.

In the New York production some of the stars obviously imitate Ziegfeld's Monster Revues by emerging from a more-than-lifesize chalice.

But for the most part the West German cast contents itself with detailed soloist parts.

Herod does his transvestite number and seems to fall somewhere between Marlene Dietrich and Marika Rökk (a West German operetta and musical star who appeared in the title role of *Hello Dolly* when it was produced at the Operettenhaus on Hamburg's Reeperbahn).

The problem of this production is not first and foremost in the inappropriate treatment of the material. It is far more in the way this crisis of the musical has been imported.

Jens Wendland

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 14 March 1972)



Rainer Schöne as Jesus Christ in the Münster production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Photo: dpa)

Munich ballet festival opens with four premieres

Once again the Bayerische Staatsoper has put on a ballet festival week which was a princely show of the Munich company's repertoire. On the gala opening evening there were four new works to be seen.

In his *Quatre Images* John Cranko from the Stuttgart ballet has taken four pieces by Ravel and choreographed them with a story involving a prince, an infanta and a sea witch, which ends up as a mixture *Swan Lake* and *Undine*. The idea is dubious, but the whole is saved by some dance passages that come off very well.

The Munich production of this ballet, which was first created in Stuttgart five years ago shows two things: firstly that the works that South African born John Cranko has created for his Stuttgart ensemble rarely succeed when taken over by any other West German company and secondly that the system of rehearsal by a system of notation cannot replace the work of the choreographer.

In Munich the Benesh notation was taken over by Georgette Tsingurides. This production scarcely gave an inkling of what Cranko's ballet is all about.

There were two works performed for the very first time, *Paare* (Couples) by Lothar Höfgen and *Wendekreis* (Tropics) by Ronald Hynd.

Höfgen, the ballet director in Bonn created *Paare*, based on the music of ex-Beatle George Harrison, which not surprisingly has a marked Indian flavouring and is full of Hindu mythology. But the whole is reduced to the aspect of the union of man and woman *à la Kama Sutra*.

But the medium of dance cannot pass across the philosophical superstructure of Hinduism and so it stays as the conventional pas de deux story ending with the sex act.

If Höfgen had been inspired by the music to make a ballet with steps stylised from beat or Hindu rites, rather than the conventional idioms midway between Classical and Modern Ballet it might have left a greater impression.

But the real explanation *for the success* of this production was the cleverly arranged stage settings by scenic designer Helmuth Koniarsky and the virtuoso immaculate dance creations by Konstanze Vernon and Höfgen himself.

Then there was *Wendekreis* by the Munich ballet director Ronald Hynd. Robert Moran's music starts with three chords and then spends a quarter of an hour looking for an adagio following the final tonic. At the same time we see planetary movements at a breathtaking pace. The sun, moon and stars orbit with spherical harmony and the boredom of the cosmic eternity. This is how kitsch of the space age can be made to look.

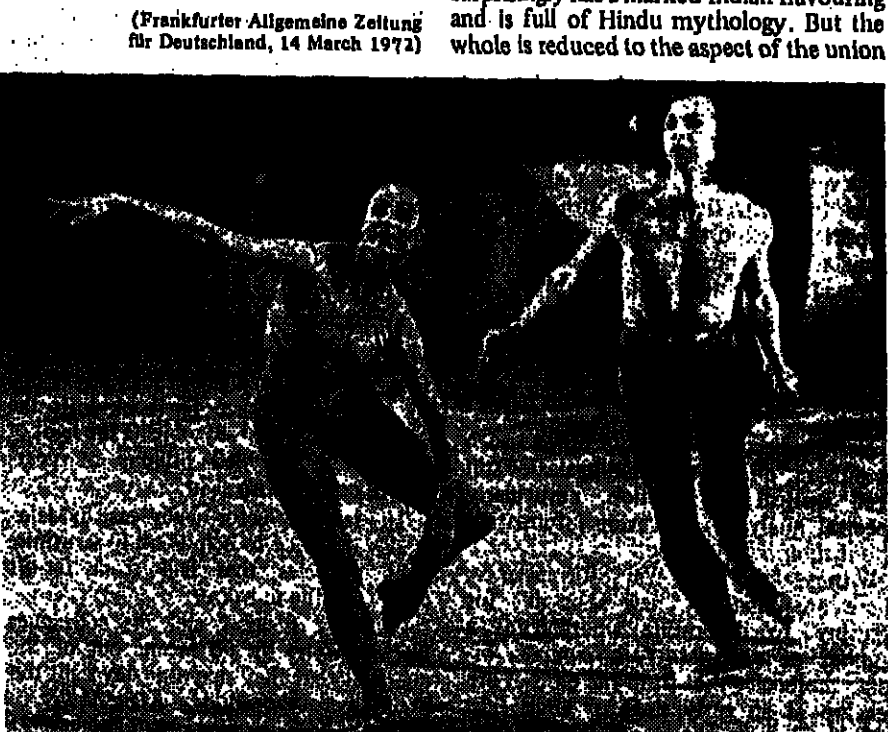
Considered in comparison with the Gerhard Bohner's ballet *Die Folterungen der Beatrice Cenci* (The tortures of Beatrice Cenci) is a work that is totally annihilating. It shows the immense power and expression that ballet can achieve even now if only it can be released from the tried and tested old aesthetic ideas.

The ballet lasts forty minutes and has six scenes, depicting the parricide Beatrice Cenci. It is a succession of new tortures imposing ever new and unrelenting pain on Beatrice and forcing more and more confessions out of her. With each confession she is caught up in a whirlpool of ever new confusions and contradictions. It is clearly seen that truth becomes a lie and lies a truth.

But this is not a stage show selected from the favourite horrors of a Sado Masochist. Despite the seemingly unending escalation the ballet never becomes an orgy of brutality.

The question that is asked by Bohner is: how far are humans involved, history, the realities of a crime and the truth open to manipulation when there is a threat of

Continued on page 11



Konstanze Vernon and Lothar Höfgen in *Paare* based on music by ex-Beatle George Harrison (Photo: dpa)

THE ARTS

Voluntary film censorship becomes really voluntary

The Film Industry's Voluntary Self-Control Scheme (FSK) has been in existence since 1949. Its title is misleading. The censorship was not voluntary. Every distributor had to submit his films if he did not want to suffer commerical difficulties.

The FSK was not self-control in the strictest sense of the word either. Not only representatives of the film industry decided whether a film should be screened or banned. Delegates from the central government, Federal states, youth associations, and the Churches also sat on the board.

It therefore became something of a public body. The courts too bowed to its judgment. As far as I know, the law has never banned any film passed by the FSK.

The FSK ceased to exist in this form on 1 January 1972. Films are indeed submitted voluntarily now – the FSK really does deserve the name Self-Control. But the FSK was so ashamed of this change that is hesitated many weeks before announcing anything to the public.

It began with the Church representatives pulling out of the FSK. This step, announced last October, was finally taken on 1 January 1972.

Church delegates no longer wanted to work on a committee that concealed its true purpose (guarding films from the clutches of the Public Prescutor) behind so many fine words such as protecting the public from brutality, pornography, radical hatred, glorification of war and the like. The FSK has not always taken its idealistic aims all that seriously.

Delegates from public bodies followed. The government, Federal states and youth organisations also withdrew their representatives on 1 January. But they were decent enough not to inform the public of their decision.

That means that since 1 January it is only the representatives of the film industry who decide whether West German adults should be allowed to see the films submitted to them. The Churches and public bodies still decide on whether films should be passed for the young, setting minimum age limits of six, twelve and sixteen years.

For the first time since 12 May 1920 when the Weimar Republic's cinema regulations came into force there is no State censorship of films in Germany, or in its Western part at least. No distributor or producer is forced to submit his film to any authority.

What is the use of the FSK in its present form? It can pass a film for the over-eighteens according to its principles But what does the distributor get from this apart from expense – the normal cost being 76 Pfennigs per metre of film?

When a film does not conform to FSK principles it can be passed on to a committee of lawyers appointed by the film industry who will certify whether or not it is liable to prosecution. If the film is then passed it is given an X-certificate.

But can this committee stop a film being brought into the courts by the Public Prosecutor? It has after all no legal basis. The committee can only give the same advice as a lawyer. The only advantage presumably for a film company prosecuted after the committee passes one of its works is that it acted in good faith.

What are the consequences of the end to the old FSK system? Any film can be shown to cinema-goers above eighteen without any preliminary examination of any kind.

This is a state of affairs that has long been achieved in literature, the theatre and art. This freedom from censorhip has only one limit – existing laws.

There will certainly be a number of test cases in the courts. Literature already has this behind it. Some cases have already been brought against non-commercial films, especially those shown in clubs, but verdicts have always been in favour of the directors and cinema-owners.

It will be mainly distributors specialising in art films that will benefit from the end of the old FSK. It would by completely nonsensical to submit a new film by Buñuel or Chabrol to the FSK unless of course they wanted it passed for minors. It is the small distributors who cannot really afford the FSK fees that will welcome the new situation.

Most film backing in this country was linked with the film in question being passed by the FSK. This will have to be changed in future, if it has not been changed tacitly already. Financial backing for short films will now be available to more young film-makers than was once the case.

Even if a grading by the Federal states Film Evaluation Bureau (FBW) is still a necessary qualification for financial backing, the FSK can no longer have a hindering effect. The FBW decided as early as 1971 to award grades to films even if they have not been passed by the FSK. At that time there was still the restriction that the film should not be shown for commercial purposes. It would only be logical to withdraw that condition now.

Wilhelm Roth

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 March 1972)

Continued from page 10

violence (the ballet is based on an actual case against Beatrice Cenci in 1958)?

The dancing in this ballet fights free of the paleness of its expression and is pushed almost as far as horrific drama. Its choreographic examples are in the main Artaud, Grotowski and the "Living Theatre" (the work is dedicated to Tatiana Gsovsky).

The music, which is more or less consumer music for the theatre, was written by Gerald Humel. It is a composition that is full of energy which releases itself time and again from passages that seem restrained but which are full of tension.

Humel's music and the work as a whole are at times reminiscent of Bernd Alois Zimmermann's *Soldaten*, which has a place set apart in the world of opera just as Bohner's work does in the world of ballet.

Konstanze Vernon dances the part of Beatrice Cenci, giving herself over to the role almost extravagantly. There is doubt and tears. As a murderess, a disgraced woman and a tortured woman she remains a human being, a woman in the midst of a world populated by cretins and beasts.

Reinhard Beuth

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 9 March 1972)

Salvador Dali's *La vieillesse de Guillaume Tell* (Photo: Katalog)

Fifty years of Surrealism exhibited in Munich

A tidal wave of Surrealism is now flooding Munich's Haus der Kunst. Almost five hundred works of this movement that included poetry, the subconscious and the symbiosis of dream and reality in its manifesto suggest the bizarre world of dream and nightmare.

Pessimism and melancholy dominate the dreams and hallucinations of Surrealism, a movement that began in the early twenties, spreading throughout the world in two decades, never losing its effect right up to the present day.

Patrick Waldberg, the Surrealist expert and the artistic organiser of this gigantic exhibition, claims that 1922 was the year Surrealism was born and takes advantages of its fiftieth anniversary to present the first comprehensive survey in Germany of the classical period of this movement – the years between 1922 and 1942.

Surrealism united poetry and painting like no other movement before it. Its basis is in literature. It found its theoretical declaration in the Surrealistic manifesto issued by André Breton in 1924.

Known and imagined facts about the irrational, the supernatural and the surrealistic replaced the rational depiction of things. Reason was thrown from its pedestal.

The contradiction between dream and reality was to be overcome and the new artistic field of pure fantasy and imagination was to be discovered. The objects around us to which we are accustomed were to appear in an unusual light and in unusual situations.

Greek-born Giorgio de Chirico was the founder of the Surrealism of our century. His early pictures depict a remarkable dream script; fearful loneliness and infinity, ecstasy and immovability all in one.

Paris was the centre of Surrealism and the French also provided the main army of Surrealistic ranging from their mentor, the writer and painter André Breton, to Marcel Duchamp, who spent almost ten years on his major work *Great Glass*, a giant glass plate with oil colours and lead wires, and André Masson who still lives in Paris but, like the poet and painter Paul Eluard, broke away from the Surrealists.

Yves Tanguy, a self-taught man, was influenced by Chirico's pictures and began to paint enigmatic dream landscapes remote from all logical notions.

Of course the famous Surrealists dominate the exhibition numerically. René Magritte who died in Brussels in 1967 did not depict dreams so much as feature everyday objects in unusual forms and combinations. Sixteen of his works can be seen in Munich.

The Spaniard Salvador Dali is more concerned with Freud and the sexual subconscious. His eighteen pictures, almost form a mini-Dali exhibition.

Max Ernst, one of the few well-known German Surrealists, is also represented by a number of works. His *Femme Chancelante* painted in 1923 was chosen as the title picture of the exhibition.

The Surrealistic movement did not enjoy such an influence in the field of sculpture. The best work was done by Hans Arp of Strasbourg.

The exhibition shows the extent to which Surrealism established itself in the world. Man Ray and Alexander Calder represented the movement in America. Large mobiles by Calder hang from the ceiling in the entrace hall.

The exhibition also features Surrealistic works from Hungary, Yugoslavia, Argentina and even Japan.

Few people today keep this dream-world painting going. Mac Zimmermann and Edgar Ende are two of the few examples.

The Haus der Kunst has organised a great exhibition of an art movement that is already history. Visitors are overwhelmed by the passion, ecstasy and basic pessimism found in these striking works. Joan Miró's paintings form small oases of joie de vivre.

Old Surrealist films in their original form are being screened in the Haus der Kunst to round off the exhibition of classical Surrealism. The include Fernand Léger's famous *Ballet Mécanique* of 1924 and three films made by Man Ray in 1923, 1928 and 1929.

The exhibition continues to 7 May when it will be transferred to Paris and seen in the Musée des arts décoratifs until 23 July.

H. Lehmann

(Kieler Nachrichten, 13 March 1972)

Bach at Nuremberg

The 1973 West German Bach Festival will be held in Nuremberg, according to the administrators of the new Bach Society. The high point of the Festival, to be held between 30 May and 4 June will be a performance of Bach's *St John Passion* in its original version, sung by the Lorenzer Bachchor, Nuremberg. The Festival will be under the artistic supervision of Hermann Harrassowitz from Nuremberg.

Also on the programme will be Bach's "Musical Offering", a chamber concert with rarely performed solo concerti, a choral concert of Nuremberg composers, cantata services in all churches in the centre of Nuremberg, a motet by the Windsbach boys choir and a concert with works by Max Reger.

Nuremberg was the scene of a Bach Festival in 1928.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 February 1972)

■ EDUCATION

Technology moves into classrooms at *Didacta*

Münchner Merkur

Teachers are born, receive holidays and *retire*, or so popular *belief* has it. But anyone who attended the eleventh Didacta, the European Teaching and Learning Aids Fair, in Hanover from 14 to 18 March will realise how untrue this statement is.

A total of 976 firms from 24 States from all over the world were represented at the exhibition. The firms from, for example, the United States, the USSR, Israel, Japan, Australia, West Germany (567 exhibitors) and East Germany (eleven exhibitors) showed the school today as it converts for the future.

The nearly one thousand exhibitors from both home and abroad are part of a branch of manufacturers that, as far as the Federal Republic is concerned, far overshadows the seventeen-milliard-Mark Volkswagen turnover.

Over 21 milliard Marks is being spent on education in West Germany this year, including staff costs. This figure is tending to increase and government, Federal state and local authority expenditure on education in the mid-eighties should total over 35 milliard Marks at present prices and salaries.

The same trend can also be observed abroad. West German experts state that the Federal Republic by no means has a leading financial position in education when compared to the other industrialised States in Europe. The total budget would have to be doubled if West Germany were to spend as much on its pupils and teachers as Sweden.

The world's leading educational equipment manufacturers exhibited all the modern technological achievements in the four halls on the trade fair site. Visitors were able to see teaching laboratories for use in language courses, biology and all other subjects that can be taught audio-visually. Programmed education that has been highly developed in the United States for about ten years now is beginning to exert a considerable influence on day-to-day teaching in the Federal Republic.



An instrument displayed at Didacta to teach children do, re, me, fa, so, la, tee, do (Photo: dpa)

One example of the highly-specialised electronic equipment used in schools is the audiovisual studio, a simple-looking though in fact complicated innovation. The word audiovisual is applied in teaching to anything that turns the content of a lesson into visual or aural form.

This semi-professional audiovisual studio will be new to a number of teachers but most will have had experience of it. It consists of a control desk with a number of knobs and buttons reminiscent of a television studio.

Picture, sound, inserts, subtitles, flashbacks and trailers can all be controlled by the teacher. It is a complete closed-circuit television centre which not only receives the normal school broadcasts, recording them and relaying them to the classrooms but it can also produce and transmit its own programmes.

This sensitive equipment with all its supplementary parts costs tens of thousands of Marks and can do everything but replace the teacher.

Despite all the electronics and modern technology, one of the initiators of closed-circuit television in schools, Professor Heribert Heinrichs of Hildesheim College of Education, was quick to point out that the audiovisual method was only one of many and though it was becoming increasingly indispensable teachers were still needed. Time would tell whether this type of equipment will have the desired effect of saving the teachers work. One French manufacturer exhibited a "wave machine" in the technical equipment section for use in biology teaching. This apparatus explains oscillation theory and wave research – a field that many schoolchildren find difficult to understand – and illustrates specific branches of it.



The latest development for teaching anatomy – torsos in plastic (Photo: AP)

The "wave machine" first demonstrates the purely mathematical process in easily-remembered pictorial form but even the most expensive equipment is useless if there is no teacher around to give additional explanation.

Another apparatus manufactured in France analyses atomic or molecular radiation and illustrates it in the form of visible lines of various types and intensity.

The West German electronics industry is, experts state, able to hold its own in this field and a lot of its products are better though sometimes more expensive.

The French have also made an air cushion table which seems to have more in common with the field of magic than chemistry or physics. The basic concepts of physical chemistry can be illustrated on the hovering plates that form part of the equipment.

For such difficult subjects as this a number of West German firms offer software programmes for audiovisual installations that can help all pupils, irrespective of the part of the country in which they live, to receive an equally good education in these fields.

It is not only the expensive, techological teaching and learning aids that are on show. Visitors can also see quite simple exhibits which are still needed in an age of electronics.

There is for example the working table for schools. The table can be adjusted in height and inclination so that any size chair for instance can be placed under it. Doctors in Hanover state that it is this simplicity that makes it an ideal table to prevent damage to the spinal column.

One of the surprises of the exhibition is that the slate should still be thought so important for children starting school. Psychologists have found that writing with a piece of chalk on a slate counters dyslexia, a complaint involving a weakness in reading and writing which affects even talented children.

School books, exercise books, writing materials, plans for educational technology and specialist congresses for all types of school and educational institutes round off the picture of the eleventh Didacta.

There should be more and better education in tomorrow's schools and abilities will be expanded without making children specialise at an early stage in school life. Didacta shows a number of ways this could be done.

Ernst Weger

(Münchner Merkur, 15 March 1972)

Bavaria plans to introduce morals lessons at school

Working out timetables is one of the most difficult administrative duties at schools. But it will be a little easier in future in Bavaria because of an addition that is being made to the curriculum, curiously enough.

It has been usual practice at many high schools to place religious instruction at the beginning or end of the day so that children who do not take this subject can come later or leave earlier.

From this autumn onwards this positioning will no longer be required as all pupils who do not take religious instruction will be expected to attend a course on ethics and morals.

When this first came to public attention scornful voices filled with contempt could be heard. Was chastity to be taught? Was the lesson meant to teach children better morals? Would it be a platform for puritan societies?

The Education Ministry in Bavaria is not all that happy about the name of the course either. But it is obliged to carry out this venture because of the Bavarian constitution.

Article 137 Paragraph 2 of the 1946 constitution states, "Courses on the generally recognised principles of ethics and morals are to be organised for pupils who do not attend religious instruction."

This obligation had been all but forgotten up to now. The few pupils who did not take religious instruction enjoyed extra leisure time. But the question of what should be done about those who refuse to take religious instruction has become more pressing of late in Bavaria and all the other Federal states.

Whole classes have refused religious instruction. In other classes large groups suddenly disappear when the R.I. teacher comes into the room. In Munich for example one Catholic high school pupil in four no longer attends R.I. classes.

Many teachers try to stop this exodus by switching from straight religious instruction to lessons and discussions on ethical and religious beliefs. Sometimes they manage to hold their audience but this process of adaptation has done little to halt the general trend.

It is only this discrepancy between the constitution and the actual situation in schools that has prompted thoughts on what is to be done, the Education Ministry claims.

A spokesman stated that it seems reasonable to give pointers to those pupils who did not derive the norms for their actions from religious affiliations.

A commission from the Bavarian State Institute for School Education, a section of the new Centre for Educational Research, is now deciding the form which these pointers are to take.

It is already known that the prime aim of the syllabus will be to teach the ability and willingness to resolve inter-human conflicts while preserving the legitimate interests of all in question.

Another part of the future syllabus states that the classes are meant to bring pupils to moral maturity by teaching them modes of attitude and behaviour that conform to general values.

The subjects that are to be treated without indoctrination or preaching will include comparative religion and ideology, Man's social relationship and the meaning of conflict.

As this fashionable vocabulary shows these morals classes will not be used to hammer home certain moral criteria. But teachers and politicians still doubt whether education that is not bound to one particular religion or ideology will lead to an acceptance of the ethics of human co-existence.

Franz Ebner, the head of the Bavarian

Continued on page 13

■ MEDICINE

Chalk is children's best writing implement, psychologists claim

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Dyslexia is the name given by educationalists to the difficulties in reading, writing and spelling that have been observed more and more at West German elementary schools since the end of the Second World War.

The complaint poses problems to tens of thousands of physically and mentally healthy children every year and brings with it the danger that they will be sent to special schools for the backward.

Doctors, psychologists and teachers have wondered in recent years why it is mainly very intelligent though sensitive children who are affected by dyslexia.

After it was found that about eighty per cent of the children affected were by no means untalented scientists tried to find whether the mistakes lay in the teaching methods that are usual at elementary schools today and that have been recommended by the education authorities in the various Federal states.

A team of researchers from the psychology department of Aachen Technical University headed by Professor Friedrich Steinwachs went to the eleventh Didacta – the education fair in Hanover – to lecture to parents, elementary school teachers, the manufacturers of teaching materials and the school authorities on their work.

For the past two years the team has claimed that the "whole word" teaching method is responsible for dyslexia in healthy children as it is contrary to easy learning and unpsychological.

The children are incorrectly programmed from the very beginning as it is only the language centre in the brain that is a "whole word" centre. The writing and reading centres focus on letters as the smallest units to be learnt.

In comparative experiments with six hundred elementary school children last year the Aachen psychologists found that other factors inhibiting learning apart from teaching methods included the writing implements now used, namely a pen or pencil on smooth paper.

Professor Steinwachs measured the pressure applied by the children when writing. The thirty thousand or so measurements taken provided educationalists with some astonishing results.

Children in the first class exerted a pressure of between three hundred and five hundred grams on their writing implements, or three to five times as much as adults.

As there is little friction or resistance between the paper and the pen or pensil, the child finds no balance and tried to counter this by increased pressure in order to stop his pen slipping. This results in immediate inhibition and the child's development suffers.

With children who learned to write with thick, soft chalk on the gook old slate the spontaneous initial pressure dropped after about six weeks and movements became more harmonious and less inhibited.

After twelve months these children had reached a certain degree of perfection in combining letters and syllables and were far ahead of those children with pens, pencils and exercise books.

The psychologists hope that children will no longer be taught what Professor Steinwachs describes as an automation of the writing process. They will then be able to concentrate on the content of their lessons and no longer have to divide their attention between the content and their writing or reading.

The Aachen psychologists believe that this can be achieved by intensive courses in reading and writing from the very beginning. Letter-by-letter methods and the old slate should then be used in place of more modern methods.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 11 March 1972)

Continued from page 12

and West German High School Teachers Association, states, "I cannot imagine lessons of this type if they are to be completely independent ideologically."

One of the biggest problems is that we do not know what is still generally valid, he commented. There was some clarification of basic rights but there was none about basic duties and obligations.

So far there is a shortage of teachers who could take this subject as well as a shortage of views on how the lessons could be taught. R.I. teachers should not take these lessons, teachers say, and nobody else wants to.

The Education Ministry hopes to find enough teachers who volunteer for these duties. The authorities will then help them prepare for their classes by the beginning of the new school year.

There is one way of avoiding the difficulties but so far no one has expressed it in public. The Bavarian constitution is more than 25 years old and in need of reform. The regulation on morals and ethics could be omitted as changes are made.

Gisbert Heine

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 6 March 1972)

Paul Ehrlich Prize awarded to a Briton and a Swede

President Gustav Heinemann awarded Denis Burkitt of London and Jan Waldenström of Malmö the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstädter Prize at a special ceremony in the Paulskirche in Frankfurt.

This, the highest scientific award in the Federal Republic, carries with it a total cash award of 100,000 Marks. It is offered in two yearly instalments of fifty thousand Marks on 14 March, the date of Paul Ehrlich's birth, to scientists who have done special work in the field of haematology, immunology, chemotherapy and cancer research.

Burkitt has worked many years in Uganda as a researcher and surgeon and, in the words of the Paul Ehrlich Foundation, has made one of the most important contributions to cancer research in modern times.

Burkitt studied and described the new tumour syndrome named after him. It is a malignant maxillary tumour found in African children in hot and damp climates. After examining cases of this type, Burkitt has come to the conclusion that it is caused by a virus.

The Swedish scientist Jan Waldenström is the senior physician at Malmö University Clinic and is considered an expert in the field of haemoglobin chemistry and cancer research.

He discovered a blood disease that was later named after him – Waldenström macroglobulin anaemia – in which large quantities of a certain high-molecular endosperm appear in the blood.

Among other people to have won the Paul Ehrlich Prize since it was re-established after the war in 1952 are Adolf Butenandt and Otto Warburg. The Foundation was established in 1929 by Hedwig Ehrlich.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 15 March 1972)

Hormones to fight psoriasis

Psoriasis sufferers have been given little help in the past. This widespread chronic skin disease suffered by more than one per cent of the European population is treated with ointment, ultra-violet lamps and cortisone tinctures but it is never cured.

All attempts to put an end to this disease with internally-taken drugs, diets and psychotherapy have failed up to now.

Dermatologists at Mainz University Hospital now report in cautious scientific language of the first hopeful indications for a systematic treatment of psoriasis. Once a week they injected two hundred grams of a medicament into patients with the result that the red rash and silver-white flakes disappeared.

The new treatment attempts to remove the causes of the complaint and not just cure the symptoms. Patients with psoriasis have a disorder in their dehydroepiandrosteron metabolism that may be inherited.

The shortage of dehydroepiandrosteron (DHEA) causes the horny cells of the skin to proliferate. Their tendency to divide is pathologically increased. Thick flakes on the elbows and knees are the result. In serious cases this spreads over the whole body.

Professor Holzmann and his staff are now trying to counterbalance this DHEA shortage. Tablets had little effect. It was only when the dermatologists switched to injecting the ten test patients intramuscularly with DHEA as an oily solution that their condition improved.

After only three injections an adequate quantity of DHEA enters the cells affected by the disease and normalises the metabolism. The excess production of horny skin decreases.

The new substance being tested in Mainz is a hormone derivative developed two years ago by Shering of Berlin, Germany's largest producer of contraceptive pills.

DHEA is an androstan derivative which is related to the male sex hormone testosteron. Its hormone characteristics are however minimal. Men and women can take it without unwanted side-effects.

The state of mental tension suffered by three of the patients gave way to complete composure after this drug had been prescribed, Professor Holzmann reports. This is without doubt a beneficial side-effect in patients whose lives had been spoiled by psoriasis.

Laboratory tests have revealed no indications of harmful side-effects either and this is important for a disease that does not prove fatal.

But doctors are unable to give a conclusive judgment because only a few patients have been treated with DHEA. Further tests will show whether an increase in the dosage and a lengthening of the treatment will improve on the successes registered and, above all, whether the DHEA injections will prevent and therefore cure this chronic disease.

It is only after these tests are over that the drug, previously used only at the Mainz hospital as a test substance, will be stocked by chemists and thus be available to sufferers of the diesase.

Hans Ewald

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 15 March 1972)

MEDICAL NOTES

Laser beam operation

A Berlin professor now uses a modern American laser equipment to burn tiny holes in patients' eye-balls and put a stop to the dangerous excess pressure that can lead to blindness.

This glaucoma operation lasts only ten minutes and is completely bloodless. The patient can go home immediately afterwards.

The University Eye Clinic in the Berlin suburb of Steglitz is the first and so far only hospital in the world where glaucoma can be operated on by means of laser beams. The head of the clinic is Professor Hugo Hager.

The new operation is particularly mild on the eyes as they do not need to be cut open. The argon laser equipment allows its operator to burn holes of between a tenth and a twentieth of a millimetre diameter into the tissue. The patient needs only a local anaesthetic for this new type of glaucoma treatment.

But not all cases of glaucoma can be treated in this way. The laser operation can only be carried out where pigment can be seen in the corner of the eye.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 2 March 1972)

Free examinations

West Germans have made only limited use of the free preventive examinations available since January 1971. The North Rhine Medical Association claims that the figure is alarmingly low and can be explained psychologically.

People fear that a serious complaint may be diagnosed even though early recognition is an important factor in malignant diseases and the like. One person in five died of cancer in 1969.

All women over thirty and men over 45 are entitled to a free medical examination.

(Die Welt, 16 March 1972)

Poisoning diagnosis

Doctors will need ninety seconds at the most to obtain information about any type of poisoning afflicting their patients aided by a computer that is beginning operations at Kiel University Hospital this autumn.

A spokesman for the university claims that the computer which took twenty years to develop is the first electronic system in the world that is able to provide doctors with a diagnosis in cases of poisoning.

Sixty thousand items of information are stored in the computer. New data are constantly being fed in and out-of-date information removed. Doctors can obtain information on some fifteen thousand poisonous substances.

If a doctor anywhere in the Federal Republic wants to know more about the type of poisoning suffered by one of his patients he can telephone the computer centre, list the symptoms and receive the diagnosis and cure.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 16 March 1972)

More blood donors

West Germans donated 1,135,005 units of blood to the Red Cross last year, an increase of 147,896 over the preceding year. Blood donation centres arranged a total of 9,732 sessions for donors.

The North Rhine and Westphalia-Lippe branch topped the list with 276,592 units followed by Lower Saxony, Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate and Hamburg/Schleswig-Holstein.

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 15 March 1972)

■ TOURISM

From Ulm to Passau – a traveller's delight

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Up to Ulm the Danube is romantically Bavarian and it is only at Regensburg where it turns to the south-east that the river becomes a major waterway. Seen from the river, Ulm is one of the most beautiful cities on the Danube.

Many historical traces have been left along the river's banks. There is the Romantic, the Gothic, the Baroque, the Roman Limes, the prosperity of the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation period have all left their marks.

From the famous Münster to the equally famous Dom, from Ulm's majestic Bürgerkirche to the Elector's Palace in Regensburg there is a Gothic sphere of influence that includes Lauingen's Pfarrkirche in Late Gothic style to the immense Gothic of Ingolstadt's Liebfrauenmünster.

The countryside here is made for warfare. Nato troops go on manoeuvres here conquering and defending Ulm's Danube bridgehead just as Napoleon's Marshal Ney did in the action at Elchingen to hold this important position.

He took the title of *duc d'Elching* after Austrian's capitulation just as one hundred years before him John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, had taken the title Duke of Blenheim after his victory over the French and Bavarians at Blindheim.

Young children looking after the geese in this little village which is not far from the scarcely bigger township of Höchstädt know their local history backwards although there is only a small column commemorating the fateful year of 1704.

Adults tell the story of a portly man with cigar, Sir Winston Churchill, who visited the battle field where his famous ancestor had gone into battle. The battle scenes have been recorded on French engravings which are kept in Donauwörth's historic Town Hall.

Donauwörth is another romantic little town on the Danube. And in Neuburg too the Danube has been made part of the townscape with impressive buildings on the rocks that form the bank of the river. A further example of the exuberance of the style is to be found in the Rococo church in Ingolstadt built by the Asam brothers. Outside this church has a pinkish glow and when a visitor goes through the impressive decorative entrance he sees an interior that is bubbling over with joie de vivre. Weltenburg's monastic church which was also designed by the Asam brothers offers peace and tranquillity to the wanderer when he arrives there from the hustle and bustle of the Klosterhof inn.

Will the monastery which stands impressively on the bend of the Danube and which has stood there since it was built by the Benedictines in the seventh century fall victim to worldly striving for wealth and prosperity?

Those who want to enjoy looking at this most romantic part of the German Danube will probably have to hurry. There is already talk of extending the river at this point to make it navigable to larger shipping and the first legal steps have already gone through for this aim.

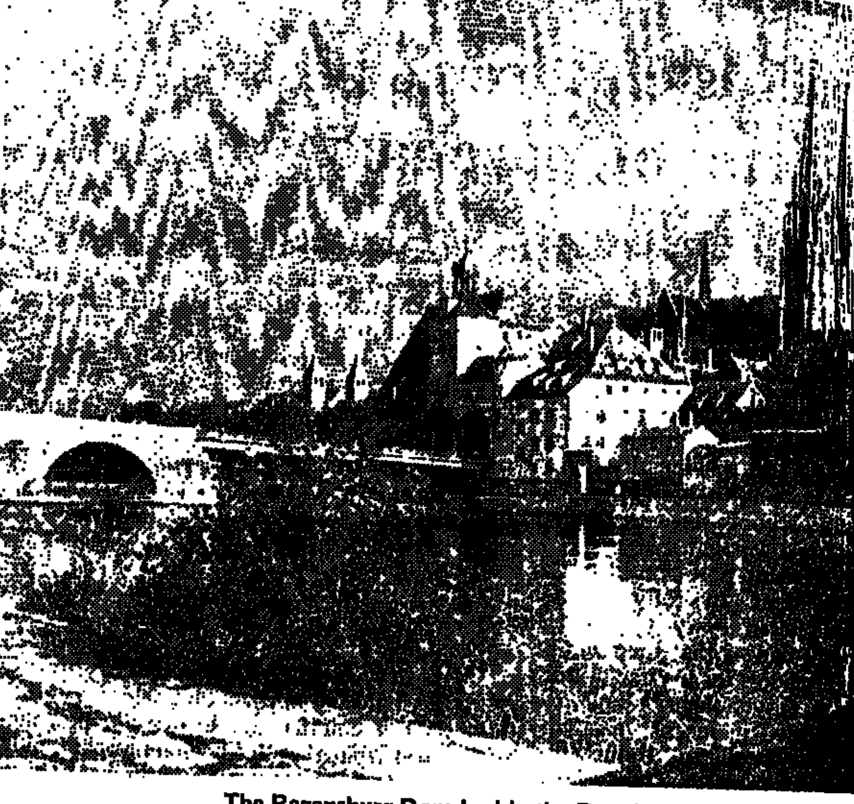
The gorge remains picturesque up to Kelheim where the river once again becomes broader as it takes in small tributaries, Altmühl and the Ludwigskanal which used to be navigated by horse-drawn barges. This was a bold beginning to the Main-Danube canal, which was planned long ago and has still not been completed.

It is possible to look down on this project of King Ludwig I from his Befreiungshalle where his incredible fantasy became a reality in stone. Rows of stone maidens. A few years ago this building celebrated its hundredth birthday. From this point on the Danube is navigable but does not bear comparison with the Rhine.

And then at its most northerly point the Danube passes its oldest and largest settlement on German territory, the worthy city of Regensburg (Ratisbon). This was once the capital of the eastern empire, the scene of many parliaments. For days one can retrace former glory and the culture of past centuries in Regensburg. And today taverns here will serve the visitor with typical old Bavarian cuisine.

The most original thing to be seen here is the tiny "Wurstkuchl" on the stone bridge which can be found in a onetime customs house. Regensburg has taken on another importance with the establishment of its new university which includes a college of theology. This city is different from Ingolstadt where Germany's oldest university flourished – from 1472 to 1800 – and which was so important during the Counter-Revolution. The city is also the terminus of the oil pipeline from Genoa.

The rest of the river from Regensburg to Passau derives its beauty from the Bavarian Forest through which it runs until it becomes strong and mighty when it passes through this city of three rivers, the Danube, the Inn and the Ilz.



The Regensburg Dom beside the Danube

(Photo: Städt. Fremdenverkehrsamt Regensburg)

Passau is a narrow, pointed finger surrounded by water. With a jewel that is almost too heavy for it, the fifteenth century St Stephen's cathedral, the dominating nucleus of this city of 32,000 people that is compressed into too small a place.

Passau has an incomparable position from which it derives beauty and at the same time endangers itself. The Inn is wild and the Ilz is less turbulent. Floods are a regular occurrence as can be seen by the numerous references on the quay wall. This is the price Passau has had to pay for building its Town Hall and the heart of the city right on the banks of the Danube.

The various trends in this city have come and gone with the Danube: Christianity and colonisation via Vienna to Hungary. Prosperity came as the importance of the bishopric grew.

Efforts are being made to provide the streams of tourists with culture as well: open-air theatre, ballet, operetta, concerts and musical evenings in the castle. And there are castles aplenty. Campers can stay in the Burghof from which the view is impressive and where they are safe from flooding.

To Passau water is a friend and foe. Boat trips on the three rivers, short voyages along the Danube to the nearby border and day excursions to Linz and Vienna are popular tourist attractions.

Jutta Rudershausen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 2 March 1972)

Dip in the altogether

Wiesbaden is the first city in the Federal Republic to introduce naked bathing at public baths. City officials heaved a sigh of relief since the first occasion went off without any kind of a stir.

The municipal authorities responsible for swimming baths expected some kind of a scandal, but it all passed off quietly, although there was a run on entrance tickets at the central swimming baths.

The rumour going around the night before the scheme began that tickets could only be obtained on the black market proved to be quite incorrect.

A queue of 672 men and women formed before the period of nude bathing began, but everyone who wanted to enter the baths for a nude dip was able to do so. Observers noted that is was not much young people who joined the queue for tickets but more the middle age group.

The cashier said: "I saw many regular faces but there was also quite a number of people who were new to the baths."

The baths attendent said: "Everything was perfectly proper and modest."

Hans Hörle, from Freiburg, president of the West German Nudists Association said after he attended the first nude dip "There were a few curious people there but that will pass off."

It has now been assured that every Monday evening between 7.30 and 10.00 nude bathing will be allowed in the Wiesbaden baths. The city authorities have decided to continue with the project if only because after the event it was discovered the twenty per cent more people attended the baths on the Monday evening than usually did so.

So long as people attend the baths, and incidentally pay the entrance fee, bathing in the altogether will be allowed. If the project did not pay off then the swimming costumes would have to go back on.

The only people who were a little put out about the project were the members of the West Geran Life-Saving Association. Members used to take their diving tests on Monday evenings. The have had to make way for the nude bathers.

Discussions between the nudists and the life-savers have taken place and it is possible that the nudists and the life-savers will use the baths together. But the life-savers did not want to allow nudity.

Wilfried Dietze

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 9 March 1972)

Clad and unclad on the North Sea islands

Kampen on the North Sea holiday island of Sylt proposes to establish a special beach for dogs between the nudist and non-nudist sections of the island's shoreline this summer. The beach is being established to meet demands from holidaymakers who take their dogs with them on holiday. If the innovation is successful it will be continued.

For a trial period the second beach will be divided for dogs and not for dogs. This beach lies to the south of the island.

Although no precise statistics are available the island's authorities believe that nudists make up 45 per cent of holidaymakers. But the numbers visiting the different holiday resorts differ considerably. The fact that almost half the visitors to Sylt are nudists has influenced the authorities on the neighbouring island of Föhr where at Nieblum a nudist beach has been marked out.

The village nearby of the same name is one of the prettiest in Schleswig-Holstein. It is proud of its nine-hole golf course and new stables with 15 horses – both of which can only be enjoyed wearing clothes. Visitors can hire the horses for rides along the mud flats to Amrum and for night rides that include gatherings round a camp fire. For the children there are donkeys.

As a demonstration of civic spirit the people at the holiday resort of List propose to join forces to clean up the beaches. Last year the mayor, Dr Hisam, organised the first campaign of this sort and it has been carried on.

List is becoming an increasingly important harbour for holidaymakers wishing to go to nearby Denmark. Last year the harbour handled more than 770,000 passengers, 99,000 private cars and 2,300 buses. The holidaymakers went to the Danish island of Römö.

Last year another attraction was very successful at Sylt. More than 3,730 holidaymakers went up for short trips in an aeroplane to see the island from the air. And more than 56,328 holidaymakers flew to the island from the mainland for their holidays. This was an increase of ten per cent over the 1970 figure. 28,000 passengers flew to Heligoland and 18,000 to Wyk auf Föhr.

The island's airfield is to be handed over by the Luftwaffe to the civil authorities on 1 April this year. The airforce jets that have until now disturbed the holiday resort are to be moved to another station.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 March 1972)

■ SPORT

A lighter touch is much needed in TV sports reporting

The average footballer in this country is an inch and a half tall. He plays, let us say, from left to right on your screen and wears a dark jersey unless, that is, you happen to have colour TV.

His professional legwork provides the broadcasting authorities with inexpensive, wide-ranging and entertaining programme material.

The ideology on the basis of which the powers that be purvey Federal league football to the TV consumer is marked by an almost naive belief that the game is news, and an important news item.

In point of fact Gerd Müller's shots at goal are golden shots. Their trajectory is determined by the requirements of football as show business.

Apparently separate from politics and the arts TV-land has conjured up a second, sporting reality. Performances are discussed by serious commentators who might just as well be reporting on the last catastrophe in some far-flung corner of the globe.

They have the benefit of the information pattern of sport. The difference between victory and defeat is often the result of inferior training and personal problems of the players in question and other considerations that seldom hit the headlines.

Penalty kicks are more straightforward. So are trainers who give vent to their feelings after the game. Fouls are obvious, so is fair play.

When the country's forwards go onto the attack the remainder of the male population take their jackets off, reach for a bottle of beer, ignore phone calls and pass judgments on the football they see on the screen.

Sports coverage on TV is first-rate, 24 per cent of second channel viewers reckon. Only detective serials are given a higher rating, 26 per cent.

The broadcasting authorities give the viewing public what it wants, too. Between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, the same survey revealed, 54 per cent of teleconsumers would like to see sport on the box.

"A nation that can no longer get by without its weekend quota of TV football ought to ask itself a number of urgent questions," one American sports reporter claims.

But in this country as in the United States the roar of the crowds would drown the answers. Over the weekend the father of the family devotes his time to the Federal league.

Saturday after Saturday the schedule is the same. From quarter to six till half past six there is "Die Sportschau" on Channel 1 and from quarter to nine till eleven "Das aktuelle Sportstudio" on Channel 2. In all they boast 23 million viewers.

After this start to the weekend there were, on one average winter Sunday, a further three hours of sport in general, supervised by link-men such as Oskar Wark, who once said to writer Peter O. Chotjewitz that at the professional level football is show business, nothing more nor less.

This is true of competitive sport of all kinds, at least as far as television is concerned.

The curtain never ceases to rise. For the Olympics it looks as though it will never come down. There will be 230 hours of Olympics on all channels. By the time it is all over there will hardly be a viewer in the country whose face is not marked by five rings under the eyes to symbolise a dedicated fortnight's Olympic viewing.



Gerd Müller, nicknamed The Bomber, is a great favourite with West German soccer fans

(Photo: dpa)

This apocalypse of information on Olympic victory and defeat will link the entire country in a sporting event the social relevance of which bears no relation to the amount of money the two channels will be ploughing into Munich and Kiel – 100 million Marks and 2,300 staff.

Without a doubt the Olympics will be grist to the mill of TV director-generals who will be able to marshal their forces in a sector in which the general public is interested – sport.

Willi Krämer, sports director at ZDF, the second channel, will hear nothing of sport becoming the mainstay of television. "Two per cent of political documentation in the year's output can be far more substantial than ten per cent sport," he maintains.

Fair enough, as far as it goes, but what does "substantial" mean?

The only fact that seems to be fairly definite is that what the commentator says about the game often bears witness to the tacit conviction that a healthy body is conducive to a healthy mind.

Every commentator is at pains to stress that football is not merely football. When a fixture of Eintracht Frankfurt is televised the commentator never fails to make play with fact that goalie Kunter has a PhD handle to his name.

The healthy body of a professional footballer is subject to laws quite different from those that govern the intellect, though, as Willi Krämer is the first to admit.

"Top-flight sport is governed almost entirely by marketing considerations," he says. "Professional football has virtually nothing to do with sport any more. The players are artists who perform according to sporting rules and do their best just as a circus artist would if he were to be paid a bonus for a particularly good show. It is an admirable profession, but it must not be confused with sport."

Yet reports about the ups and downs of this particular profession account for a good half of the sports coverage on TV in this country. Why?

"We feel we have no right to deprive viewers of top-flight football," Krämer says. "The public is interested in it. We do not exist to promote well-meaning and doubtless splendid feats achieved by amateurs and athletes who merely engage in sporting activities in order to keep fit."

"Sports and gymnastics clubs beaver away patiently and quietly and peace and quiet are not what television is there to portray."

Yet many sports reporters make a song and dance about what is shown on the TV screen. Their reporting reminds one of Stifter or Hemingway, whereas American commentators make no bones about the fact that the hue and cry of American football is entertainment.

The consumer and show business aspects of Federal league football have little in common with the schoolmasterly comments of, say, Ernst Huberty of Channel 1.

Often enough he or one of his colleagues assures the viewing public that national trainer Helmut Schön is still worried about one player or the other or that the standard of play is disappointing, play too rough, the crowd too wild, the referee mediocre and football itself in the middle of a crisis.

A show as poorly "sold" as this would stand little prospect of a good rating if it were put over purely and simply as entertainment. Popular show MC Kulenkampff could hardly comment on an appearance by pop singer Manuela that her ear, nose and throat doctor is still a little worried.

The problem of sports reporting on TV in this country is that an expensive product is sold as though it were a matter of life and death.

There are grounds for suspicion that sports reporters put professional football on a pedestal in order to differentiate between themselves and mere "entertainment".

Where concessions are made, in ZDF's "Aktuelles Sportstudio", for instance, the spell is amusingly broken and the other extreme is reached. Sport is put over as comic opera.

But when the whistle is blown and the fun is about to start we are back to square one and the commentator takes it all far too seriously. *Michael Naumann*

(Die Zeit, 17 March 1972)

100-metres butterfly champion Hans Lampe retires

European 100-metres butterfly champion Hans Lampe of Bonn is to retire from competitive swimming before the Munich Olympics.

After serious thought, he stated, he and coach Gerhard Hetz had come to the conclusion that his prospects of doing well at the Olympics were slender. He would like to end his career as a European champion and not as an also-ran at Munich.

"I would never have managed a European championship title had it not been for Herr Neckermann (of the Sports Aid Foundation) and my coach Gerhard Hetz," Lampe commented.

He now wants to graduate from Hanover teachers training college as soon as possible. (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 17 March 1972)

OLYMPICS 1972

Newspaper

From 1 August to 11 September 350,00 copies a day of a thirty-eight issue official Olympic newspaper will be published and printed in Munich. The sports coverage will be edited by the Olympic press bureau and PR director Hans Klein.

The paper will be staffed by accredited journalists from all over the world, but written in German with a few items and captions in English and French.

At least twenty issues will include a four-colour supplement introducing some aspect or other of the host country.

The Olympic organisation committee will receive 25,000 free copies of each issue for distribution to accredited journalists and Olympic village-dwellers.

The remainder will be sold at fifty pfennigs a time in this country and abroad. (Nordwest Zeitung, 17 March 1972)

Non-riot zone

At the request of Bavaria the Bundesrat, the country's Upper House, has sponsored an Olympic peace-keeping Bill to be submitted to the Bundestag.

If passed the Bill will empower the state government to decree the environs of the Olympic sports facilities out of bounds for public meetings and processions either for individual events or for the duration of the Games.

The Bundesrat has further approved the Bill on ratification of territorial rights over the North Sea continental shelf and a Bill on factory doctors and labour safety specialists.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 4 March 1972)

Moon flags

The two American astronauts Moon-bound in mid-April will have with them two Olympic flags from Munich – one displaying the five-ring Olympic emblem on a white background, the other the light blue spiral that symbolises the Munich Games.

The two flags are to be left behind on the Moon as a symbol of peace. About a square metre in size, the flags are made of a featherweight synthetic material.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 16 March 1972)

No passports

Foreign participants in this summer's Munich Olympic Games will require neither passports nor visas. A regulation to this effect has been signed by Bonn Minister of the Interior Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

This dispensation applies to athletes, aides and journalists in possession of an identity card issued by the Olympic organisation committee and is limited to the period from 16 June to 15 October 1972. (Die Welt, 15 March 1972)

Directory

Munich postal authorities have compiled a special Olympic telephone book in English, French and German. Its 250 pages include not only relevant telephone numbers but also maps of the Olympic facilities and post offices, charges and services. Each of the special post offices will have special date-stamps. There are 69 in all, 28 reserved specially for journalists.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 4 March 1972)